Amph. Act. 2 Sc. 5.
Hayman Inv.t
C. Mosley Sculp.t

Amph. Act. 2 Sc. 5.
Hayman Inv.t
C. Mosley Sculp.t

Mr. COOKE'S

EDITION and TRANSLATION

OF THE

COMEDYS

OF

PLAUTUS.

Collated & Perfect. J.F.K. 1800.

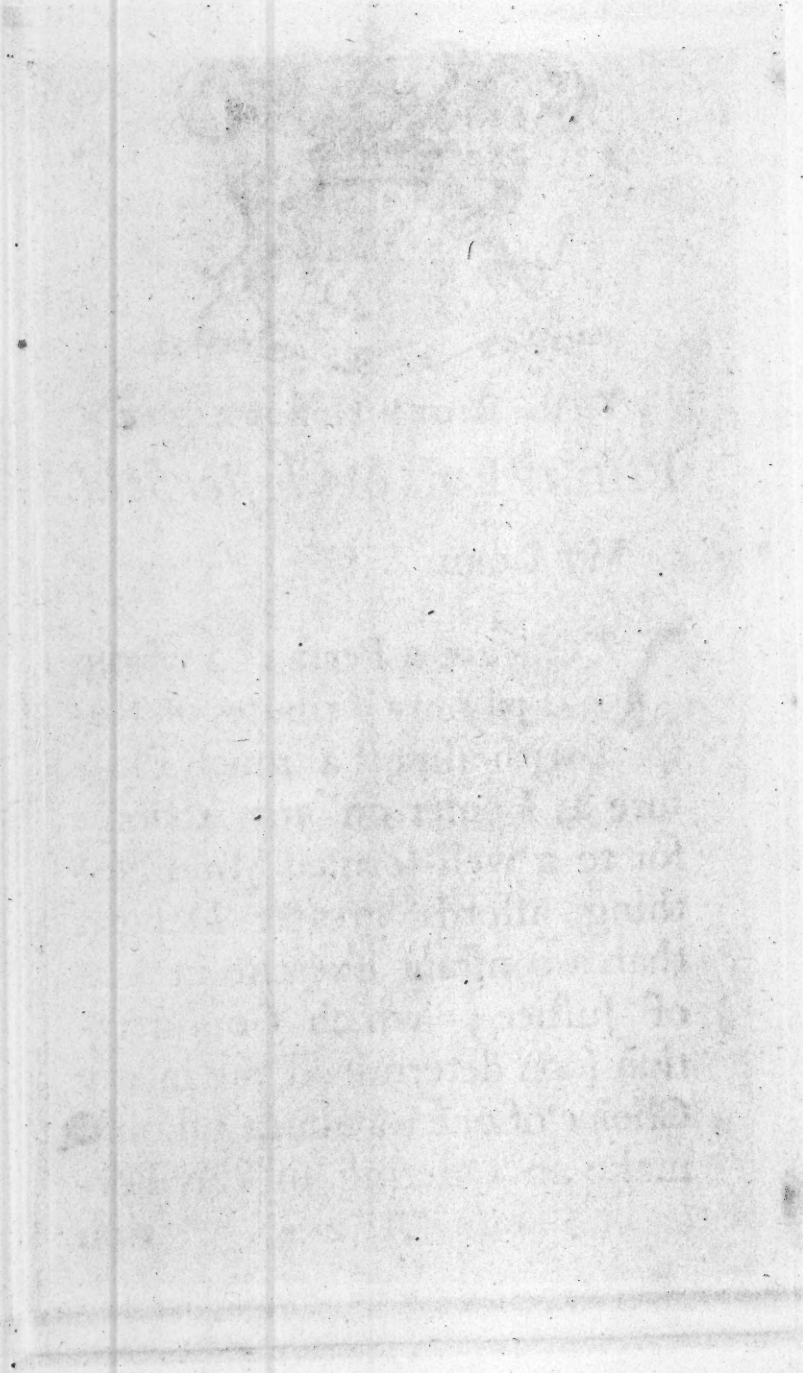
VOL. I.

LONDON:

Printed by and for J. PURSER.

MDCCLIV.

No more pure.



To the RIGHT HONOURABLE

PHILIP Earl of *Cheſterfield.*

My LORD,

YOU are a Perſon to whom I pay my Tributes of Reſpect with almoſt as much Pleaſure as I enter on any Action: for to a well-formed Mind Nothing affords greater Delight than a conſtant Exerciſe in Acts of Juſtice; which Conſideration ſoon determined me in my Choice of one to whom I ſhould make an Offering of this Por-

tion of an Edition and Tranſlation of the Comedys of *Plautus*, an Author who was in the higheſt Eſtimation among the Antients, of whom *Terence* ſpeaks with the Regard due to his great Excellences, in whoſe Commendation *Varro* wrote a whole Treatiſe, and whom *Cicero* has enriched with many Praiſes. Receive, my Lord, this Offering, as it is intended, as an Indication of the grateful and unreſerved Reſpect with which I am

Your Lordſhip's

moſt humble,

much obliged,

and moſt obedient, Servant

THOMAS COOKE.

THE NAMES OF SUBSCRIBERS.

A

HIS Grace *Hugh* late Archbiſhop of *Armagh*.
His Grace the Duke of *Argyll*.
Her Grace the Dutcheſs of *Argyll*. Royal Paper.
His Grace the Duke of *Athol*.
His Grace the Duke of *Ancaſter*.
The moſt Hon. the Marqueſs of *Annandale*.
The moſt Hon. the Marchioneſs of *Annandale*.
The Rt. Hon. the Earl of *Ayleſbury*.
The Rt. Hon. the Counteſs of *Abercorne*.
The Rt. Hon. the Earl of *Abington*.
The Rt. Hon. the Counteſs of *Abington*. Royal Paper.
The Rt. Hon. the Earl of *Aſhburnham*.
The Rt. Hon. the Earl of *Arran*.
The Rt. Hon. the Earl of *Aylesford*. Royal Paper.
The Rt. Hon. Don *Azevedo*, Secretary of State to the King of *Portugal*.
The Rt. Hon. Lady *Abergavenny*.
The Hon. *Richard Arundel* Eſq. Royal Paper.
The Hon. *James Anneſley* Eſq.
Sir *Robert Abdy* Bart.
Sir *John Anſtruther* Bart.
Sir *Raphe Aſheton* Bart.
Sir *Thomas Aſton* Bart.

Sir *Joſeph Ayloffe* Bart.
William Adair Eſq.
William Aiſtabie Eſq.
Henry Alcraft Eſq.
Anthony Allen Eſq. one of the Maſters in Chancery.
Thomas Allen Eſq.
The Rev. Mr. *William Allen.*
Robert Alſop Eſq.
Mr. *John Ames.*
John Angel Eſq.
Mr. *John Applebee.*
Andrew Arcedeckne Eſq.
Robert Arcedeckne Eſq.
Henry Archer Eſq. Royal Paper.
Thomas Archer Eſq.
William Archer Eſq.
Mrs. *Archer.* Royal Paper.
Miſs *Suſan Archer.*
Charles Areſkine Eſq.
Thomas Aſhby Eſq.
Mr. *Thomas Aſtley.*
The Rev. Dr. *Francis Aſtry,* Treaſurer of St. *Paul's.*
Abraham Athyns Eſq.

B

Her Grace the Dutcheſs of *Beaufort.* Royal Paper.
His Grace the Duke of *Bedford.* Royal Paper.
Her Grace the late Dutcheſs of *Buckingham.* Royal Paper.
The Rt. Hon. the Earl of *Burlington.* Royal Paper.
The Rt. Hon the Counteſs Dowager of *Burlington.*
The Rt. Hon. the Earl of *Berkeley.*
The Rt. Hon. the Earl of *Bath.*
The Rt. Hon. Lady Viſcounteſs *Bateman.*
The Rt. Hon. Lord *Brooke.*
The Rt. Rev. *John* late Lord Biſhop of *Bath* and *Wells.*
The Rt. Rev. *Joſeph* Lord Biſhop of *Briſtol.*
The Rt. Rev. *Matthew* Lord Biſhop of *Bangor.*

The

The Hon. Lord *Robert Bertie.*
The Hon. Lady *Albinia Beckford.*
The Hon. *Henry Bathurſt* Eſq.
The Hon. Mrs. *Buller.*
The Hon. *George Berkeley* Eſq.
The Hon. Mr. Juſtice *Burnet.*
Sir *Roger Burgoyne* Bart.
Lady *Brown.*
Sir *John Barnard.*
Sir *Robert Baylis.*
The late Rev. Mr. *Baker* of St. *John's College Cambridge.*
George Barber Eſq.
Robert Barber Eſq.
John David Barbutt Eſq.
Mr. *Barclay.*
The Rev. Dr. *Bateman,* Archdeacon of *Lewis.*
Mr. *Edward Bathurſt.*
Edward Bayntun Eſq.
Thomas Bayntun Eſq.
Edmund Hungate Beaghan Eſq.
Mrs. *Beckford.*
Francis Beckford Eſq. Royal Paper.
Richard Beckford Eſq.
William Beckford Eſq.
Stephen Beckingham Eſq.
Mrs. *Beckingham.*
Norborne Berkeley Eſq.
Norreys Bertie Eſq.
William Binford Eſq.
The Rev. Mr. *Birch.*
Thomas Bladen Eſq.
Miſs *Caroline Blenman.*
Mr. *Timothy Blenman.*
Mr. *William Blenman.*
The Rev. Dr. *Bland,* Dean of *Durham.*
Mr. *William Blizzard.*
Mr. *Arden Bonell.*
Daniel Boone Eſq.

Edward Bootle Esq.
George Bowes Esq.
William Bowles Esq.
The Rev. Mr. *Brady.*
Thomas Bramston Esq.
Thomas Bray Esq.
Francis Bridgman Esq.
Alexander Brodie Esq. Lord Lion.
William Brown Esq.
John Bud Esq.
Thomas Budgen Esq.
James Buller Esq.
Josiah Burchet Esq.
Mr. *William Burgoyne.*
Peter Burrel Esq.
Samuel Burroughs Esq, one of the Masters in Chancery.

C.

His Grace *John* Abp. of *Canterbury.* Royal Paper.
His Grace the Duke of *Chandos.* Royal Paper.
The Rt. Hon. the Earl of *Chesterfield.* Royal Paper.
The Rt. Hon. the Earl of *Clarendon* and *Rochester.*
The Rt. Hon. the Earl of *Castlehaven.*
The Rt. Hon. the Earl of *Cholmondeley.*
The Rt. Hon. Earl *Cowper.* Royal Paper.
The Rt. Hon. the Countess of *Coningesby.* Royal Paper.
His Excellency Don *Sebastian de Carvalho,* Envoy extraordinary from the King of *Portugal.*
The Rt. Rev. *George* Lord Bishop of *Carlisle.*
The Rt. Rev. *Samuel* Lord Bishop of *Chester.*
The Rt. Hon. Lord *Carpenter.*
The Hon. Lord *Charles Cavendish.*
The Hon. Lord *James Cavendish.*
The Hon. the late Lord *James Cavendish.*
The Hon. Lord Visc. *Cornbury.*
The Hon. Lady *Ann Compton.* Royal Paper.
The Hon. Lady *Mary Churchill.*
The Rt. Hon. the late Lord Chief Baron *Comyns.*
The Hon. *Edward Cornwallis* Esq.

The Hon. *John Chicheſter* Eſq.
The Hon. *Henry Conway* Eſq.
The Hon. Mrs. *Cock.*
The late Lieutenant General *Clayton.*
Lady *Carew* of *Eaſt-Anthony* in *Cornwall.*
Sir *Nicholas Hackett Carew* Bart.
Sir *John Chapman* Bart.
Sir *John Cheſter* Bart.
Sir *Robert Corbet* Bart.
Sir *Robert Saluſbury Cotton* Bart.
Sir *William Courtenay* Bart.
Sir *Nathaniel Curſon* Bart.
Sir *William Calvert.*
Sir *George Champion.*
Sir *James Creed.*
Abraham de Joſeph Cappadoce Eſq.
William Carter Eſq.
Matthew Caſſan Eſq.
Abraham Caſtres Eſq.
Mr. *Edward Cave.*
Dr. *Chancy.*
Richard Chandler Eſq.
Mr. *Samuel Chandler.*
The Rev. Dr. *Chapman.*
William Chapman Eſq.
Mr. *John Chapman.*
Dr. *George Charles,* High Maſter of St. *Paul's* School.
The late *William Chetwynd* Eſq, of *Beddington* in *Surry.*
William Chetwynd Eſq, of *Saville-Row.*
Henry Chitty Eſq.
Charles Cholmondeley Eſq.
Colley Cibber Eſq.
The Rev. Dr. *Reuben Clarke,* Archdeacon of Eſſex.
William Cleaver Eſq.
Robert Colebrooke Eſq.
Edward Coleman Eſq.
Mr. *Peter Collinſon.*
Mrs. *Colſton.* Two Sets.
John Comyns Eſq.

Mrs. *Concanen.* Royal Paper.
Lieutenant *George Concanen.*
James Concanen Esq.
Matthew Concanen Esq. Royal Paper.
Mr. *Patrick Concanen.*
The Rev. Dr. *Conybeare,* Dean of *Christ-Church Oxford.*
The Rev. Mr. *Cooke,* Head Master of *Eton-School.*
George Cooke Esq.
Miss *Elizabeth Cooke.*
George Lewis Cooke Esq.
Richard Cooke Esq, of *Stretham* in *Surry.*
Mrs. *Cooke* of *Stretham.* Royal Paper.
Godfrey Copley Esq.
Edward Corbet Esq.
Thomas Coster Esq.
Raphael Courteville Esq.
Miss *Catherine Cowper.* Two Sets.
Robert Craigie Esq.
Robert Crammond Esq.
Thomas Cunningham Esq.
William Cunningham Esq.
Murray Crymble Esq, the King's Receiver General in *Jamaica.*

D.

His Grace the Duke of *Devonshire.*
His Grace the Duke of *Dorset.*
The Rt. Hon. the Earl of *Derby.*
The Rt. Hon. the Earl of *Dysart.*
The Rt. Hon. the Countess of *Dalkeith.*
The Rt. Hon. Lord *Dudley.*
The Rt. Rev. *George* Lord Bishop of *Derry.*
The Hon. Lord *Deerhurst.*
The Rt. Hon. Sir *Conyers Darcy.*
The Rt. Hon. *George Doddington* Esq.
Lady *Dashwood.*
Sir *Edward Dering* Bart. Royal Paper.
Sir *Hugh Dalrymple* Bart.

John

John Damer Eſq.
Joſeph Damer Eſq.
Mr. *Daniel Dandy.*
Dr. *Richard Daniel.*
Mr. *John Dawſon.*
Richard Dawſon Eſq.
Mr. *William Deacon.*
Mr. *Dennis Delane.*
Peter Delme Eſq.
The Rev. Dr. *Denne,* Archdeacon of *Rocheſter.*
Mrs. *Denne.*
George Denton Eſq.
Mr. *Bento Deſmages.*
Jacob Dias Eſq.
Mr. *Dodſley.*
Mrs. *Dolliffe.*
Miſs *Cornelia Drake.*
Richard Draper Eſq, Serjeant at Law.
Mr. *James Dunbar.*

E.

The Rt. Hon. the Earl of *Effingham.*
The Rt. Hon. the Counteſs of *Effingham.*
The Rt. Hon. the Earl of *Euſton.*
The Rt. Hon. the Earl of *Egmont.*
The Rt. Rev. *Stephen* late Lord Biſhop of *Exeter.*
The Rt. Rev. *Nicholas* Lord Biſhop of *Exeter.*
The Rt. Rev. *Robert* Lord Biſhop of *Ely.*
The Hon. *James Erſkine* Eſq.
The Hon. *George Evans* Eſq.
The late Sir *Richard Ellys* Bart. Royal Paper.
The late Sir *Abraham Elton* Bart.
Sir *John Evelyn* Bart.
The late Sir *John Eyles* Bart.
The late Sir *Joſeph Eyles.* Two Sets.
William Rawlinſon Earle Eſq.
William Eaſt Eſq.
John Eaton Eſq.
Iſaac Eeles Eſq.

John

John Ellys Esq.
John Evelyn Esq.
The late *Charles Ewer* Esq.
John Eyles Esq.

F

The Rt. Hon. the Earl of *Fitzwalter.*
The Rt. Hon. the Countess of *Fitzwalter.*
The Rt. Hon. Earl *Fitzwilliam.* Royal Paper.
The Rt. Hon. Lord *Fairfax.*
The Hon. *Robert Fairfax* Esq.
The Hon. *Edward Finch* Esq.
The Hon. *John Finch* Esq.
The Rt. Hon. *William Forteſcue* Esq, Maſter of the Rolls.
The Hon. Mr. *Juſtice Forteſcue Aland.*
Lady *Forteſcue Aland.*
Lieutenant General *Folliot.*
Sir *Cordell Firebrace* Bart.
Mrs. *Fazakerley.*
Henry Fielding Esq.
William Fitzherbert Esq.
Charles Fletewood Esq.
Thomas Foley Sen. Esq.
Mrs. *Foreman* of *South Lambeth.*
John Forteſcue Esq.
George Fox Esq.
James Fox Esq.
Mr. *Richard Francklin.*
George Frazier Esq.
Thomas Frederick Esq.
John Freemantle Esq.
Sheppard Frere Esq.
Roſe Fuller Esq.
Henry Furneſe Esq.

G

His Grace the Duke of *Gordon.* Royal Paper.
The moſt Hon. the Marqueſs of *Granby.* Royal Paper.

The

The Rt. Hon. the Earl of *Gaineſborough.* Royal Paper.
The Rt. Hon. the Counteſs of *Gaineſborough.*
The Rt. Hon. the Earl of *Godolphin.* Two Sets.
The Rt. Hon. the Earl of *Granville.*
The Rt. Hon. the Earl of *Grandiſon.* Royal Paper.
The Rt. Hon. Lord *Gower.*
The Rt. Hon. Lord *Gowran.*
His Excellency Signor *Gaſtaldi,* Secretary from the Republic of *Genoa.*
The Hon. Lady *Elizabeth Germain.*
The Hon. Lord *George Grahame.*
Lieutenant General *Guiſe.* Royal Paper.
Sir *Robert Groſvenour* Bart. Three Sets.
Sir *John Gordon* Bart.
The late Sir *Robert Godſcall.*
Joſeph Gape Eſq.
George Granier Eſq.
Mr. *David Garrick.*
James Gaſtine Eſq.
Major *Geddes.*
The Rev. Dr. *George,* Provoſt of King's College *Cambridge.*
Mr. *Henry Giffard.*
The Rev. Mr. *Goodwyn,* Vicar of *Clapham* in *Surry.*
Thomas Gordon Eſq.
Charles Gore Eſq.
Thomas Gore Eſq.
King Gould Eſq.
William Leveſon Gower Eſq.
Mr. *John Grace.*
Thomas Grace Eſq.
Charles Gray Eſq.
Edward Green Eſq.
William Green Eſq.
The Hon. *John Gregory* Eſq, Preſident of the Council in *Jamaica.*
Nathaniel Gundry Eſq.
Francis Gwyn Eſq.

H

His Grace the Duke of *Hamilton.*
Her Grace the Dutcheſs Dowager of *Hamilton.*
The Rt. Hon. the Earl of *Hartford.*
The Rt. Hon. the Earl of *Huntingdon.*
The Rt. Hon. the Earl of *Holderneſs.*
The Rt. Hon. the Earl of *Halifax.* Royal Paper.
The Rt. Hon. the Earl of *Harrington.*
The Rt. Hon. Lady Viſcounteſs Dowager *Harcourt.*
The Rt. Hon. the late Lord *Haverſham.*
The Rt. Hon. Lord *Hervey.*
The Rt. Hon. Lord *Hardwick.*
The Hon. *Nicholas Herbert* Eſq.
The Hon. *Thomas Hervey* Eſq. Royal Paper.
The Hon. Sir *Philip Honywood.*
The Hon. Sir *William Harbord.*
Sir *Thomas Hanmer* Bart.
Sir *Henry Harper* Bart.
Sir *Liſter Holte* Bart. Royal Paper.
Fayrer Hall Eſq.
John Hamilton Eſq.
Robert Hamilton Eſq.
William Hamilton Eſq.
Leonard Hammond Eſq.
Richard Hammond Eſq.
Mr. *Thomas Hammond.*
William Hammond Eſq.
Dr. *William Hancock.*
George Frederic Handel Eſq.
Humphry Hanmer Eſq.
Nicholas Harding Eſq.
John Harris, of *Pickwell,* Eſq.
Thomas Hayley Eſq.
Mr. *Francis Hayman.*
Samuel Heathcote Eſq.
John James Heidegger Eſq.
Henry Henley Eſq.
Robert Henley Eſq.
John Hervey Eſq.

Mrs.

Mrs *Hervey.*
Mrs. *Hewer.*
John Highmore Eſq.
Aaron Hill Eſq.
Dr. *Benjamin Hoadley.*
The Rev. Mr. *John Hoadley.*
Robert Hoblyn Eſq.
Anthony Hodges Eſq.
Mr. *James Hodges.*
Samuel Holden Eſq.
Richard Hollings Eſq.
Mr. *Thomas Holliſter.*
Lieutenant Colonel *Philip Honywood.*
Richard Honywood Eſq.
Edward Hooper Eſq.
Jacob Houblon Eſq.
Richard Howard Eſq.
Walter Hungerford Eſq.
Mr. *John Hunter.*
John Hylton Eſq.

J

The Hon. Lord *John Johnſton.*
Major General *Johnſon.*
Sir *Richard Day Jenoure* Bart.
Sir *Hilderbrand Jacob* Bart.
Sir *Edmund Iſham* Bart.
Edward Jackſon Eſq.
Stephen Theodore Janſſen Eſq.
John Idle Eſq.
Joſeph Jekyl Eſq.
Mr. *Edward Jemmit.*
Mr. *William Innys.*
John Jolliffe Eſq.
Mrs. *Jolliffe.*
Thomas Jones Eſq.

K

The Rt. Hon. the Earl of *Kinnoul.*

The

The Rt. Hon. Lord Viſcount *Killmorey.*
The Rt. Hon. Lord *King.* Royal Paper.
The Rt. Hon. Lady Dowager *King.* Royal Paper.
The Hon. General *Keith.* Two Sets. Royal Paper.
Benjamin Keene Eſq.
Mr. *William Keller.*
John Kelly Eſq, Fellow of *Clare-hall, Cambridge.*
The Rev. Dr. *Kenrick.*
Matthew Kenrick Eſq.
Miſs *Dulcibella Kent.*
Thomas Kent Eſq.
Robert Knight Eſq.
Charles Knowles Eſq.

L

His Grace the Duke of *Leeds.* Royal Paper.
Her Grace the Dutcheſs of *Leeds.*
The Rt. Hon. the Earl of *Lincaln.*
The Rt. Hon. the Earl of *Litchfield.*
The Rt. Hon. the Earl of *Loudoun.*
The Rt. Hon. the Counteſs of *Leiceſter.* Royal Paper.
The Rt. Hon. Lord Viſcount *Lymerick.*
The Rt. Hon. Lord *Leigh.* Royal Paper.
The Rt. Rev. *Edmund* Lord Biſhop of *London.*
The Rt. Rev. *Richard* late Lord Biſhop of *Lincoln.*
The Rt. Rev. *Richard* Lord Biſhop of *Litchfield* and *Coventry.*
The Rt. Hon. Lord Chief Juſtice *Lee.*
The Hon. *Andrew Leſlie* Eſq.
The Hon. *Henry Legge* Eſq.
Sir *Robert Lawley* Bart.
Sir *Robert Long* Bart.
Sir *Thomas Lowther* Bart.
Sir *Berkeley Lucy* Bart.
Sir *Daniel Lambert.*
James Lacy Eſq.
Mathew Lamb Eſq.
John Lawton Eſq.
Robert Lee Eſq.

Richard

Richard Leſtock Eſq.
Manning Lethieulier Eſq.
Percival Lewis Eſq.
Richard Liddell Eſq.
Thomas Liſter Eſq. Royal Paper.
William Lock Eſq.
William Lowſield Eſq.
Robert Lucas Eſq.
The Hon. *George Lyttleton* Eſq.

M

His Grace the Duke of *Marlborough.* Royal Paper.
Her Grace the Dutcheſs of *Marlborough.* Royal Paper.
Her Grace the Dutcheſs Dowager of *Mancheſter.*
The Rt. Hon. the Earl of *Marchmont.*
The Rt. Hon. Lord *Maynard.*
The Rt. Hon. Lord *Montfort.* Royal Paper.
The Hon. *Edward Montagu* Eſq.
The Hon. Lady *Mary Wortley Montagu.*
The Hon. *William Murray* Eſq.
The Hon. and Rev. Dr. *Moore.*
The Hon. Mr. Baron *Mountney.*
Sir *Richard Mill* Bart.
Sir *Thomas Moſtyn* Bart.
Vice Admiral *Matthews.*
Daniel Mac-Kercher Eſq.
Mr. *Charles Macklin.*
Henry Maiſter Eſq.
William Mann Eſq.
Robert Manning Eſq.
James Martin Eſq.
Miſs *Elizabeth Ann Martyn.* Royal Paper.
William Clifford Martyn Eſq. Royal Paper.
Mrs. *Martyn.*
Henry Maſterman Eſq.
John Mathews Eſq.
Samuel Maud Eſq.
Dr. *Richard Mead.*
Thomas Medlycott Eſq.
Mr. *John Millan.*
Dr. *Edward Milward.*

Mrs. *Milward.*
William Mitchell Eſq.
Mr. *Edward Moore.*
Henry Moore Eſq. Royal Paper.
Robert Moore Eſq.
Richard Morley Eſq.
Colonel *John Moſtyn.*
The Rev. Mr. *Mott*, Rector of *Newington* in *Surry.*
John Mottley Eſq.
Richard Mullins Eſq. Royal Paper.

N

His Grace the Duke of *Newcaſtle.* Royal Paper.
Her Grace the Dutcheſs of *Newcaſtle.*
The Rt. Hon. the Earl of *Northampton.*
The Rt. Rev. *Thomas* Lord Biſhop of *Norwich.*
The Hon. Lady *Barbara North.*
The late Hon. Sir *Michael Newton* Bart. Royal Paper.
Sir *Roger Newdigate* Bart.
Richard Naſh Eſq. Two Sets.
Mr. *Arnold Neſbitt.*
Chriſtopher Nevill Eſq.
The Rev. Dr. *Newcome*, Dean of *Rocheſter*, and Maſter of St. *John's College Cambridge.*
Mrs. *Newcome.*
Thomas Newnham Eſq.
James Newſam Eſq.
The Rev. Dr. *Newton*, Princ. of *Hartford Col. Oxford.*
The Rev. Dr. *Nicols*, Head Maſter of *Weſtm. School.*
Anthony Nicholſon Eſq.
John Nicolſon Eſq. of *Kennington Lane.*
Robert Nugent Eſq.

O

The Rt. Hon. the Earl of *Orrery.*
The Rt. Hon. the Counteſs of *Orrery.*
The Rt. Hon. the Earl of *Orford.* Royal Paper.
His Excellency the Chevalier *Oſſorio*, Envoy extraordinary from the King of *Sardinia.*
The Rt. Hon. *Arthur Onſlow* Eſq. Royal Paper.
Major General *Oglethorpe.* Royal Paper.
Sir *George Oxenden* Bart.

Sir *Chaloner Ogle.* Royal Paper.
Percy Wyndham Obrien Eſq.
George Ogle Eſq.
Mrs *Ogle.*
Samuel Ongley Eſq.
Robert Oſborn Eſq.
James Oſwald Eſq.

P

The moſt Hon. the Marqueſs of *Powis.*
The Rt. Hon. the Earl of *Pembroke.*
The Rt. Hon. the Earl of *Peterborough.*
The Rt. Hon. the Earl of *Portſmouth.*
The Rt Hon. Lord *Petre.*
The Rt. Hon. Lady *Petre.* Royal Paper.
The Hon. Lord *Peterſham.*
The Rt. Hon. *Henry Pelham* Eſq. Royal Paper.
The Rt. Hon. *Stephen Pointz* Eſq.
The Rt. Hon. the late Lord Chief Baron *Probyn.*
The Rt. Hon. Lord Chief Baron *Parker.*
Sir *John Philipps* Bart. Royal Paper.
Sir *Chriſtopher Powel* Bart.
Sir *Samuel Prime.*
Winchcomb Howard Packer Eſq.
John Page Eſq.
William Pate Eſq.
John Paterſon Eſq.
John Peck Eſq.
Mr. *John Peele.*
Mr. *John Pemberton.*
Joſhua Pembroke Eſq.
Thomas Peters Eſq.
William Petre Eſq.
Ambroſe Philips Eſq. Royal Paper.
Robert Philips Eſq.
Mrs. *Pigou.*
Alured Pincke Eſq. Royal Paper.
James Pitt Eſq.
George Morton Pitt Eſq.
Edmund Moreton Pleydell Eſq.
John Plumptre Eſq.

William Popple Eſq.
Henry William Portman Eſq.
Joſeph Pratt Eſq.
John Probyn Eſq.

Q

His Grace the Duke of *Queenſborough* and *Dover*. Royal Paper.
Her Grace the Dutcheſs of *Queenſborough* and *Dover*.

R

Her Grace the Dutcheſs of *Richmond*.
His Grace the Duke of *Rutland*. Royal Paper.
The Rt. Hon. the Earl of *Radnor*.
The Rt. Hon. the Earl of *Rochford*.
The Rt. Hon. the late Earl of *Rockingham*. Roy. Pap.
The Rt. Rev. Joſeph Lord Biſhop of *Rocheſter*.
The Hon. *Charles Roſs* Eſq.
The Hon. Mr. Baron *Reynolds*.
Lady *Rich*.
Sir *John Rawdon* Bart.
Mr. *Robert Randall*.
Mr. *William Randall*.
Griffin Ranſom Eſq.
John Raymond Eſq.
Mr. *William Rayner*.
The Rev. Mr. *William Reyner*, Subdean of St. *Paul's*.
Mrs. *Reynolds*. Royal Paper.
John Rich Eſq.
George Richards Eſq.
Mr. *Samuel Richardſon*.
Mr. *George Rigge*.
Mr. *James Rivington*.
Robert Robinſon Eſq.
George Rogers Eſq.
Mr. *Thomas Roome*,
Mrs. *Rooke*.
Edward Rudge Eſq.
John Ruſh Eſq.
Samuel Ruſh Eſq.

S

His Grace the Duke of *Somerset.* 3 Sets Royal Paper.
Her Grace the Dutchess of *Somerset.* 3 Sets Roy. Pap.
The Rt Hon. the Earl of *Stamford.*
The Rt. Hon. the Earl of *Sandwich.*
The Rt. Hon. the Countess of *Sunderland.*
The Rt. Hon. the Earl of *Shaftesbury.*
The Rt. Hon. the Countess of *Shaftesbury.*
The Rt. Hon. the Earl of *Strafford.*
The Rt. Hon. the Countess of *Strafford.*
The Rt Hon. Earl *Stanhope.* Royal Paper.
The Rt. Hon. the Earl of *Stair.* Royal Paper.
The Rt. Hon. Lord *Somerville.*
The Rt. Hon. Lord *Sandys.* Royal Paper.
The Rt. Rev. *Samuel* Lord Bishop of St. *Asaph.*
The Rt. Rev. *Richard* Lord Bishop of St. *David's.*
His Excellency Baron *Solenthal,* Envoy extraordinary from the King of *Denmark.*
The Hon. Lord *John Sackville.*
The Hon. Lord *Strange.*
The Hon. Sir *William Stanhope.*
Lady *Stanhope.*
The Hon. *John Spenser* Esq. Royal Paper.
The late Hon. *Holles St. John* Esq.
The Hon. Mrs. *St. George.*
The Hon. Mrs. *Southwell.*
The Hon. *John Stanhope* Esq.
The late Sir *John St. Aubin* Bart.
Sir *Brownlow Sherard* Bart.
Lady *Sherard.*
Sir *Hans Sloane* Bart.
Sir *Hugh Smithson* Bart.
Sir *Miles Stapleton* Bart.
Sir *Francis-Hoskins-Eyles Stiles* Bart.
Francis Salvador Esq.
Samuel Savill Esq.
The Rev. Dr. *Sayer,* Dean of *Bocking.*
Thomas Scawen Esq. Royal Paper.
David Scott Esq.
Charles Scrase Esq.
Thomas Sergison Esq.

Mr.

Mr. *Henry Sharp.*
William Sharpe Eſq.
Mr. *John Shipton.*
Seawallis Shirley Eſq.
Matthew Skinner Eſq. Chief Juſtice of *Cheſter.*
John Smith Eſq.
George Speke Eſq.
Mr. *Iſaac Stapleton.*
Mr. *Joel Stephens.*
Mr. *Samuel Stephens.*
Edward Stephenſon Eſq.
Andrew Stone Eſq.
Dr. *William Strahan* of *Doctor's Commons.*
Mrs. *Strangeways Horner.* Royal Paper.
The Rev. Dr. *Arthur-Aſhe Sykes,* Dean of *Burien.*

T

The Rt. Hon. the Earl of *Thanet.*
The Rt. Hon. the late Earl of *Thomond.*
The Rt Hon. Earl *Tilney.*
The Rt. Hon. Lord Viſcount *Tyrconnel.* Three Sets.
The Rt. Hon. Lady Viſcounteſs *Tyrconnel.*
The Rt. Hon. Lord *Trevor.*
The Rt. Hon. Lord *Talbot.* Royal Paper.
The Hon. *Auguſtus Townſhend* Eſq.
The Hon. *Thomas Townſhend* Eſq.
The Hon. *John Trevor* Eſq.
His Excellency *Robert Trevor* Eſq. Envoy extraordinary to the *States General.*
Sir *Edmund Thomas* Bart.
Sir *John Thompſon.*
Sir *Peter Thompſon.*
Sir *Roger Twiſden* Bart.
Theobald Taaffe Eſq.
The Rev. Mr. *Talbot,* of *Stretham* in *Surry.*
The Rev. Mr. *Tanner.*
Dr. *James Taverner.*
John Temple Eſq.
Peter Theobald Eſq.
James Thomas Eſq.
Robert Thornton Eſq.

John-

John-Harvey Thurſby Eſq.
Jacob Tonſon Eſq.
Thomas Tower Eſq.
Robert Tracy Eſq.
The Rev. Dr. *Tunſtall.*
Jonathan Tyers Eſq. Two Sets.

V

The Rt. Hon. the Earl of *Verney.*
The Hon. Mrs. *Verney.*
The late Sir *Simon Urlin.*
Charles Vanbrugh Eſq.
Gerard Vanneck Eſq. Royal Paper.
William Vaughan Eſq.
Vice Admiral *Vernon.*
Mrs. *Vernon.*
James Vernon Eſq.

W

The Rt. Hon. the Earl of *Weſtmorland.* Royal Paper.
The Rt. Hon. the Earl of *Waldegrave.*
The Rt. Hon. Lord Viſcount *Windſor.*
The Rt. Hon. Lord *Ward.*
The Rt. Hon. Lady *Ward.*
The Rt. Rev. *Benjamin* Lord Biſhop of *Wincheſter.*
The Rt. Rev. *John* late Ld. Bp. of *Worceſter.* Roy. Pap.
The Rt. Rev. *Iſaac* Lord Biſhop of *Worceſter.*
His Excellency Baron *Waſner,* Envoy extraordinary from the late Emperor of *Germany.*
The Rt. Hon. Marſhal *Wade.*
The Rt. Hon. Lord Chief Juſtice *Willes.*
The Rt. Hon. *Thomas Winnington* Eſq.
The Hon. Mr. Juſtice *Wright.*
His Excellency Mr. *Waſenberg,* Envoy extraordinary from the King of *Sweden.*
The Hon. Sir *Charles Hanbury Williams.*
Lieutenant General *Williamſon.*
Sir *Thomas Webſter* Bart. Two Sets. Royal Paper.
Sir *Butler-Cavendiſh Wentworth* Bart.
Sir *Thomas-Cookes Winford* Bart. Royal Paper.
Sir *Robert Worſley* Bart.
Sir *Charles Wyndham* Bart.

Sir

Sir *George Wynn* Bart.
Lady *Willes.*
Lady *Wearg.*
Sir *Robert Willimot.*
John Walkenſhaw Eſq.
Harry Waller Eſq.
Edward Walpole Eſq.
Edward Walter Eſq.
Lee Warner Eſq.
Mr. *John Warrall.*
Thomas Watſon Eſq. Royal Paper,
William Watts Eſq.
Mr. *Richard Wavele.*
Philip Carteret Webb Eſq.
Mr. *John Wells.*
Joſeph White Eſq.
Paul Whitehead Eſq.
William Whitehead Eſq.
Conway Withorne Eſq.
Francis Whitworth Eſq.
Mr. *William Wilkins.*
William Wilmer Eſq.
Daniel Wilſon Eſq.
Mrs. *Weſſington.*
William Wood Eſq.
Francis Woollaſton Eſq.
George Wright Eſq.
The Rev. Mr. *Wyatt*, Maſt. of *Felſted* School. Roy. Pap.

Y

The Rt. Hon. Sir *William Yonge* Bart.
The Hon. *Philip Yorke* Eſq.
John Yate Eſq.
John Yorke Eſq.

Z

Arthur Zouch Eſq.

THE PREFACE.

AFTER eight Years of ſevere Application to this Work, I am ſorry that I am obliged to obviate any Clamours which have been made againſt an imaginary Delay: I have received many reproachful and ſome ſcandalous Attacks in Print and in Private; the Authors of all which have concealed their Names, while they ſhewed their Malice. They who are Judges of the Care and Exactneſs which are neceſſary in preparing an Edition and Tranſlation of *Plautus* are too ſenſible of the Difficulty of the Taſk to ſuggeſt a Reproach on that Account. The late Biſhop *Hare* had employed many Years towards preparing an Edition only of this great comic Poet; and he has mentioned his Intention of publiſhing it when finiſhed; but his

Death prevented the Execution of that Deſign.

Moſt of my Hours of Study, theſe eight Years paſſed, have been on this Work: but much of my Time, which I ſhould have been glad to have uſed in other Purſuits if the Intereſt of my Family would have admitted of it, has been engaged in procuring Subſcriptions: the two principal Complaints which have been made againſt publiſhing Writings by this Method are, that the Delays of Publication are generally too tedious, and that the Subſcribers purchaſe the Books at a dearer Rate than they are afterwards ſold for: this may often be the Caſe; but I always looked on ſubſcribing as promoting more than merely buying a Work of Merit, as having a Regard to the Advantage of the Author more than making a lucrative Bargain: and if the Conſequence of what is called Delay is Perfection to the Work, or the neareſt Approach towards it, that doubtleſs will ſilence, or at leaſt ſoften, Complaint.

Not-

Notwithſtanding ſeveral diſagreeable Circumſtances attending the Proſecution of this Work, the Pleaſure which I have had in it has been much greater than the Pain: the Encouragement which I have met with has exceeded my Expectation; and I take this Occaſion to expreſs my Gratitude to the whole Liſt of my Subſcribers.

What has encreaſed my Satisfaction to a more than ordinary Degree is the Readyneſs with which ſeveral Perſons, whoſe Countenance does Honour to all whom they favour with it, have promoted this Part of my Studys: which the Duke of *Somerſet* has done by large and repeated Contributions, and in a Manner conſiſtent with that Greatneſs of Mind which ſhews itſelf in all his Actions: to the Earl of *Shafteſbury* and the Earl of *Godolphin* I owe much on the ſame Account, who have helped to preſerve that Cheerfulneſs which is neceſſary in carrying on ſuch a Work, by frequent Inſtances of that Benevolence which has always diſtinguiſhed them. To the Earl of *Cheſterfield* I

owe

owe the first Encouragement to this Work as a Subscriber; of whose Favour I have received many Indications before and since; and to deserve which I should think as great a Reputation as human Wit can wish for. That excellent young Nobleman the late Lord *Petre*, who promoted this Work in no small Degree, has a Claim to both my Gratitude and my Sorrow; and I never think of him without paying both to his Memory.

For the Use of the first printed Copy of our Poet I am indebted to St. *John*'s College at *Cambridge*; which I owed to the Interceſſion of the late Mr. *Baker*; who was as much beloved for his great good Qualitys and Virtues as he was admired for his extensive Learning and Abilitys: he was, and unexceptionably so, among the greatest Ornaments of that College, which has been fruitful of extraordinary Men who have adorned their different Walks of Life, as *Burleigh* the State, and many who have brought rich Acquisitions to the Republic of Letters, from Sir *John*

Cheke

Cheke that great Reviver of antient Learning in the Reign of King *Henry* the eighth, and *Ben Johnſon* that great Imitator of antient Comedy in the next Age, down to the Times of the late Mr. *Prior* and Dr. *Bentley*, and the preſent Mr. *Ambroſe Philips*. The Memory of Dr. *Bentley* will be always treated not only with Reſpect but Gratitude by all who know the Value of antient Learning: and Mr. *Philips*, who approaches nearer to claſſical Purity than any of his Cotemporarys now living, has inſured a fair Encreaſe of Fame to himſelf: his Writings are indeed of ſuch a Caſt as require a Taſte diveſted of all that is low and vulgar to reliſh them; and I will venture, without Reſerve, to ſay that they are the Delight of all who know in what true Excellence of Writing conſiſts.

At the End of the Copy of *Plautus* belonging to St. *John*'s College is a Diſcourſe in Manuſcript entitled GOSVINI *practica Rhetorica novem Libris*: and ſeveral Notes in *Latin* on our Author are writ in the Margins in the ſame Hand

Hand with the rhetorical Treatiſe; which have been of great Uſe to me: whether *Goſvinus* was the Author of thoſe Notes is uncertain; but, whoever was, he was a Perſon of Learning and Judgement. *Goſvinus* was Chancellor of *Brabant* under *Philip* Duke of *Burgundy* and *Brabant*, as we are informed in a ſhort Account wrote in a different Hand from that in which the rhetorical Treatiſe is written, and glued to the Leaf immediately preceding the Treatiſe. I return my Thanks to that learned Society, of whoſe Library that Book is a Part, for favouring me with the Uſe of it ſo many Years; for the Continuance of the Poſſeſſion of which, after the Death of Mr. *Baker*, I am obliged to the preſent Maſter of that College, Dr. *Newcome*, a Perſon deſervedly happy in the Reſpect and Affection of the learned Body of which he is Head, and of all who are favoured with his Friendſhip or Acquaintance.

A

DISSERTATION

ON THE

LIFE and WRITINGS

OF

PLAUTUS.

OF the Life of this great comic Poet we have very little on Record: he was of mean Parentage, and was born at *Sarſina* a Town of *Umbria* in *Italy*. His Name was *Marcus Attius* (often writ *Accius*) to which was added *Plautus*, becauſe, as is ſayed, he was ſplay-footed. Whatever his Parentage was, his Comedys are Evidences of his being Maſter of the Learning of *Greece*. He was in ſome Part of his Life a Merchant, and was ſo unfortunate in ſome of his Adventures as to be ruined: he was afterwards under the Neceſſity of becoming Servant to a Baker; and he turned a Corn-mill for his Maintenance; during his Drudgery at which, as

A. Gellius tells us from *Varro*, he compoſed three of his Plays. After having gained by his Comedys a greater Reputation than any *Latin* Poet had before him, he dyed, at the Age of about forty-three Years, when *Claudius Pulcher* and *Lucius Portius Licinius* were Conſuls; which was in the Cenſorſhip of *Cato* the *elder*, in the Year of *Rome* 570, as we are told by *Cicero* in his *Brutus*; which was before the Birth of *Chriſt* 183 Years: *A. Gellius* tells us, and quotes *Varro* for it, that he writ the following Epitaph on himſelf:

Poſtquam eſt Mortem aptus Plautus, *Comœdia luget,*
Scena eſt deſerta; hinc Riſus, Luduſque, Jocuſque,
Et Numeri innumeri, ſimul omnes conlachryma'runt.

When Plautus *dy'd, Comedy mourn'd, the Stage*
Was left forlorn; then Laughter, Sport, and Jeſt,
And Numbers without Number, weep'd together.

The Expreſſion *Numeri innumeri* here alludes to a Paſſage in one of the Prologues of *Plautus*; where a proper Remark is made on it. Whether *Plautus* writ this Epitaph or not is of no Importance; but I do not believe that he writ it; nor am I the firſt who has rejected it. *A. Gellius* has preſerved many curious and valuable Remains of Antiquity; but his Writings, like

thoſe

thoſe of *Macrobius*, are like a Broker's Shop, filled with good and bad Commoditys indiſcriminately.

We have twenty Plays of *Plautus*, ſome indeed mutilated; of which are two compleat *French* Tranſlations: the firſt by Mr. *Marolles*, who has given a *Latin* Edition oppoſite his Tranſlation. *Marolles* was a Man of Learning, and underſtood his Author; yet his Edition is very far from an accurate one. The other *French* Tranſlation is by Mr. *Lemiers* and Madam *Dacier*: three only of the Plays are tranſlated by the Lady; which are *Amphitryon*, *Epidicus*, and *Rudens*: with this Tranſlation is likewiſe printed a *Latin* Edition, but too contemptible to merit any Notice: our Countryman Mr. *Laurence Echard* publiſhed an *Engliſh* Tranſlation of the ſame three Plays which Madam *Dacier* tranſlated, and has preſerved Abundance of her Errors, and added many of his own: his Tranſlation of theſe Comedys of *Plautus* deſerves the ſame Character which I have given of his Tranſlation of *Terence* in my Preface to my Edition and Tranſlation of that Author, which is this: it "is unworthy the Notice of any "one who underſtands the Original, or "has any Taſte for Comedy, or Notion of "Purity in Writing." Mr. *Echard* has,

in his Preface to his Tranſlation of thoſe three Comedys of *Plautus*, given a Tranſlation likewiſe of the firſt Act of *Aulularia*, and of Part of the ſecond Act of the ſame Play, and of the firſt Act of *Miles glorioſus*, in the ſame Manner with the Reſt.

We can not fix the Time in which any of the Comedys of *Plautus* were acted, as we can of thoſe of *Terence*, the Names of the Conſuls not being before thoſe of *Plautus* as they are before *Terence*'s: nor have all *Plautus*'s Plays Prologues to them, yet I doubt not but they all had, by whatever Means ſome are loſted. I ſhall here give the Titles of the twenty Comedys, their Explanations, and a ſhort Account of them, as being a proper Part of a Diſſertation on this excellent comic Poet, and as they afford us, the Prologues eſpecially, ſome Materials for his Life and Character.

1. *Amphitruo*, *Amphitryon*, is well known to the Moderns by the two Imitations of it by *Moliere* in *French* and *Dryden* in *Engliſh*; both which have great Excellences. *Plautus* does not mention, nor even hint at, this Play being taken from the *Greek*, in his Prologue; yet I doubt not but all his Plays were, the Subjects being all *Greecian*, excepting Part of the *Poenulus*; and that whole Play was taken from the *Greek*.

2. *Aſi-*

2. *Aſinaria*, the Comedy of *Aſſes*, was tranſlated, as we are told in the Prologue, from the *Greek* of *Demophilus*, ſome read *Diphilus*: which ever it is from ſignifys but little: they were both Writers of the low Comedy. The Prologue aſſures us that in this Play are both Elegance and Pleaſantry.

Ineſt Lepos, Luduſque, in hac Comoedia.
Here Elegance and Pleaſantry are met.

The Unitys are in no Play extant better preſerved than in this.

3. *Aulularia*, which is the ſame with *Ollula* a little Pot or Pipkin, is ſo called from the Pot in which the Miſer concealed his Treaſure. This Play is the Foundation of three modern Comedys, one by *Moliere*, one by *Shadwell*, and the other by Mr. *Fielding*. The *Frenchman*, who was one of the greateſt Maſters of Ridicule, has improved the Character of the Miſer in ſome Paſſages; but he has likewiſe left unimitated ſome delightful Strokes of Humour in the *Latin*, and has made the Miſer in Love with a Woman, while *Plautus* more naturally confines his Paſſion to his Gold. I ſhall inſtance one Paſſage which the *French* Poet has omitted tranſ-

lating; which is in the laſt Scene of the fourth Act; the Pleaſantry of Part of which ariſes from what would be looked on as a Piece of Indelicacy among the Moderns: the Subject of which Scene is this: a young Fellow over-hears the Miſer's Complaint for the Loſs of his Money, and thinks that his Lamentations are poured forth in that Abundance becauſe his Daughter is brought to Bed of a ſpurious Iſſue and by an unknown Father; he therefore diſcovers himſelf to the old Man, and confeſſes his Crime, but in ſuch Terms as make *Euclio*, the Miſer, conclude that he had ſtole his Money: ſays *Lyconides*, the Lover,

Fateor peccaviſſe, et me Culpam commeritum ſcio:
Id adeo te oratum advenio, ut Animo aequo ignoſcas mihi.

To which EUCLIO,

Cur id auſus facere, ut id, quod non tuum eſſet, tangeres?

LYC.

I acknowledge my Offence, and am ſenſible that I deſerve to be blam'd: I therefore approach you with my Intreatys, that you wou'd look upon me with a favourable Eye.

EUC.

How dar'd you attempt to touch that which was not your own?

And in this Manner they talk, miſtaking each other, thro threeſcore Lines, and with

true

true Humour, till *Lyconides* thus confeſſes all:

Ego me Injuriam feciſſe Filiae fateor tuae,
Cereris Vigiliis, per Vinum, atque Impulſu Adoleſcentiae.

Then EUCLIO roars out,

Hei mihi! quod Facinus ex te ego audio?

To which ſays LYCONIDES,

Cur ejulat,
Quem ego Avom feci jam ut eſſes Filiae Nuptiis?

LYC.

I confeſs that I injur'd your Daughter at the Vigils of Ceres, impel'd by Wine and the Heat of Youth.

EUC.

Alas! what Villainy is it that I hear you utter?

LYC.

Why do you cry out, you, whom I have made a Grandfather the ſame Day, in which you might make your Daughter a Bride?

And all this Pleaſantry is in Purity of Stile: an Excellence, the Want of which, as I ſhall farther obſerve towards the Concluſion of this Diſſertation, is too viſible in ſome of our beſt modern Comedys, and is to be lamented. A young Fellow would in this Age make but a ſneaking Figure in ſuing to the Father for the Daughter whom he had before debauched: which is a po-

pular Prejudice that ariſes from corrupt Principles and unſound Judgement.

SHADWELL's *Miſer* will not admit of any extravagant Commendations; and Mr. *Fielding* has followed the *French* Poet more than he has the *Latin*.

4. *Captivi*, the *Captives*. This Comedy ſeems to have been a Favourite of the Poet, one on which he valued himſelf; for, to gain the Attention of the Spectators, he ſays, in the Prologue,

Profecto expediet Fabulae huic Operam dare:
Non pertractate facta eſt, neque item caeterae;
Neque ſpurcidici inſunt Verſus inmemorabiles;
Hic neque perjurus Leno eſt, nec Meretrix mala,
Neque Miles glorioſus.

You'll reap Advantage from Attention now:
This Play is in no wanton Manner wrote,
Nor like the Reſt; no Verſe obſcene is here,
Unworthy your Remembrance; perjur'd Bawd
Here we have none; nor Harlot vile is here,
Nor braging Soldier.

and really the Play deſerves this Character. *Scaliger* explains *pertractate* by *ſcurriliter* and *laſcive*, and ſays *pertractare* is *Vocabulum venereum*. *Inmemorabiles*, as *Gronovius* rightly interprets it, is *Memoratu indigni*. By *neque item caeterae* the Poet means the few Plays which he had wrote before this.

We

We may be assured that this Play, tho the fourth in all Editions, was wrote after the *Miles gloriosus*. The Poet takes no Notice of this Comedy being taken from any *Greek* Play.

5. *Curculio* is so called from the Parasite in the Play of that Name, and is no improper Appellation for a Gutler, *Curculio* being the Wesand of the Throat. In the Part of *Phaedromus* are some Speeches very gallant and delicate. There is no Prologue to this Play.

6. *Casina*. This Comedy is called *Casina* from the Name of a female Slave, and was taken from the *Greek* of *Diphilus*. The Prologue was wrote after the Death of *Plautus*, and spoke at the Revival of the Play: we have in it a Testimony of the great Reputation of our Poet and of this Comedy in Particular:

Haec, quom primum acta est, vicit omnes Fabulas.
Ea Tempestate Flos Poetarum fuit,
Qui nunc abierunt in communem Locum.

This, when 'twas acted first, all Plays excel'd,
He was the Flow'r of Poets in those Times,
Of those who now are gather'd to the Grave.

Flos Poetarum fuit, to have made it good Language, should have had an Antecedent;

dent; but it has none but *haec*; which will not do; the Word *Plautus* therefore is underſtood, but with too much Violence againſt Propriety. We are told in the Verſes of the Prologue immediately preceding the former that the People required the Revival of the Comedys of *Plautus*.

Nos poſtquam Populi Rumorem intelleximus,
Studioſe expetere vos Plautinas *Fabulas,*
Antiquam ejus edimus Comoediam,
Quam vos probaſtis qui eſtis in ſenioribus;
Nam juniorum qui ſunt non noſcunt ſcio;
Verum, ut cognoſcant, dabimus Operam ſedulo.

When we perceiv'd the Rumour of the People,
That you with Earneſtneſs requir'd of us
The Comedys of Plautus, *we reviv'd*
An old one of our Author's, which by you,
Who now are rank'd among the Men of Years,
Was well receiv'd; to which the young, I know,
Are Strangers; but we'll uſe our beſt Endeavours
To make them well acquainted with theſe Scenes.

From theſe, and the Verſes before quoted, we ſee with what Applauſe this Play was firſt brought on the Stage, and with what Approbation it was revived. *Camerarius*, in his Argument to this Comedy, ſays there is ſomething in it that pious Ears can not endure, and talks of ſelecting what is good and profitable from ſuch Writings as he would

would Pearls from Dung. I can not conceive what it is in this Play that ſo diſguſted the good old Critic: there is indeed in the * third Scene of the ſecond Act a Repreſentation of one of thoſe excellent Creatures, called Women of Spirit, who can never be eaſy themſelves nor ſuffer any one Perſon about them to be ſo: *Plautus* makes this Woman of Spirit complain to her Neighbour that her Huſband is omiſſive in doing Juſtice to her, that, inſtead of giving her all her Heart's Deſire, which extends to all that he is able to give, he beſtows ſome of his Love on another: but this Woman of Spirit, the pious Critic ſhould have conſidered, is deſervedly drawed as an odious Character; for the Poet makes her prudent female Friend thus reprove her:

Tace ſis Stulta, et mihi auſculta: noli ſis tu illi
Adverſari: ſine amet, ſine quod libet id faciat,
Quando tibi Nil Domi deliquom eſt.

Silence, you Fool, and attend to me: never thwart him: let him have his Amours, let him do what he will, ſo that you want Nothing at Home.

To

* *The ſecond Scene in other Editions.*

To which *Cleoſtrata*, like a true Woman of Spirit, replys,

Sati'n' ſana es? Nam tu quidem adverſus tuam iſta Rem
Loquere.

Are you in your Senſes? For what you utter is againſt your own Intereſt.

7. *Ciſtellaria*, the *Caſket*. The Prologue is betwixt the firſt and ſecond Act, from the Concluſion of which we may reaſonably preſume that this was one of our Poet's firſt Plays, if not the very firſt; for, by his Prayer for the Succeſs of the *Roman* Arms over the *Carthaginians*, it muſt have been written before the End of the ſecond *Punic* War; which was in the Year of *Rome* 552; and *Plautus* dyed in the Year 570: our Poet therefore, who was but forty-three Years old when he dyed, could be but twenty-four Years old when this Comedy was firſt acted; for the War ended in the Year of *Rome* 552; and this we muſt ſuppoſe to have been acted in the Year 551: and, whether this was his firſt Play or not, there were but thirty-ſeven Years Diſtance betwixt the firſt Play that appeared in *Rome* and this; for *Livius Andronicus*'s firſt Play was in the Year 514, which was 239 Years before *Chriſt*; and the

the *Ciſtellaria* was acted in the Year 551, before *Chriſt* 202 Years. The Verſes, in which he prefers his Prayer for the Succeſs of the Arms of his Countrymen, have ſomething noble and elegant in them:

bene valete, et vincite
Virtute vera, quod feciſti antehac:
Servate voſtros Socios, veteres et novos;
Augete Auxilia voſtris juſtis Legibus;
Perdite Perduelles; parite Laudem et Laurcam,
Ut vobis victi Poeni *Poenas ſubferant.*

Farewel, and conquer
By ſteady Proweſs, as ye've done before:
Keep your Allys ſecure, both old and new;
Add Succours to yourſelves by your juſt Laws;
Confound your Foes; bring Praiſe and Laurels Home,
That the defeated Carthaginians *may*
Severely feel the Scourge of conqu'ring Rome.

We have a flagrant Inſtance in one of theſe Verſes of the great Ignorance or Negligence of the Editor of the Edition of our Poet in the Year 1482; who, inſtead of *voſtris juſtis Legibus*, gives *voſtris vitiis Legionibus*, and by ſo doing converts a noble Sentiment and good Expreſſion into inextricable Nonſenſe: however, I have found great Advantages from that Exemplar, erroneous as it is. As this Comedy was writ in ſo early a Part of our Poet's Life, he very

very probably turned Merchant after he had made his Appearance as a comic Poet; therefore what *A. Gellius* relates from *Varro*, of his merchandiſing on the Stock which he had acquired by his Writings, may be true.

8. *Epidicus* is the principal Character in this Play, which is therefore called by his Name: there is no Prologue to this Comedy. *Plautus* makes one of the Characters in the ſecond Scene of the ſecond Act of his *Bacchides* mention *Epidicus* with a very earneſt Commendation; and at the ſame Time he cenſures an Actor who played in it, perhaps the Part of *Epidicus*.

Epidicum, *quam ego Fabulam aeque ac me ipſum amo,*
Nullam aeque, invitus ſpecto, ſi agit Pellio.

I ſee Epidicus *with Unwillingneſs, when* Pellio *acts, tho it is a Play which I love as well as I do myſelf, and no other Play ſo well.*

Gronovius quotes the following Paſſage from *Symmachus*: *non idem Honor in pronunciandis Fabulis* P. Pollioni, *qui* Ambivio *fuit.* P. Pollio *did not gain ſo much Honour in ſpeaking on the Stage as* Ambivius *did.* *Symmachus* calls him *Pollio*, but it muſt be the ſame with *Pellio*; for *Ambivius* played in the Comedys of *Plautus*, and was an old and

and famous Actor in *Terence*'s Time; and his Name is before five of *Terence*'s Plays; and, as I have observed in my *Dissertation on the Life and Writings of* TERENCE, of what Importance *Ambivius* was on the Stage appears from the second Prologue which he spoke before the *Stepmother*.

9. *Bacchides*. This Comedy is called *Bacchides* from two Sisters, Courtesans, who are the chief Characters in the Play; both whose Names are *Bacchis*.

10. *Mostellaria*, which means the same with *Monstra*, the *Apparitions*, is a very entertaining Comedy, simple and clear without the least Intricacy. One of *Menander*'s Plays was called Φασμα, the *Apparition*, the Subject of which I have related in one of my Notes to the Prologue before *Terence*'s *Eunuch*. The Φασμα of *Menander* and the *Mostellaria* of *Plautus* had no Resemblance one to the other. There is no Prologue to this Play. Part of the Busyness of this Comedy is imitated by *Ben. Johnson* in his *Alchymist*.

11. *Menaechmi*. This Comedy is so called from two Brothers in it of the same Name, *Menaechmus*; and the Prologue informs us that it is taken from the *Greek*. From the following Verses in the Prologue, and from a Passage in *Horace*, we may be

aſſured that this Play is from the *Greek* of *Epicharmus*.

——— *hoc Poetae faciunt in Comoediis;*
Omnes Res geſtas eſſe Athenis *autumant,*
Quod illud vobis Graecum *videatur magis:*
Ego nuſquam dicam, niſi ubi Factum dicitur:
Atque adeo hoc Argumentum graeciſſat, *tamen*
Non atticiſſat, *verum* ſiciliciſſitat.

This in our Comedys the Poets practice;
The Scene of Action they at Athens *lay,*
To make it more appear the Work of Greece:
I'll never ſay 'tis ſo, but when 'tis ſo:
His preſent Tale he copys from the Greek,
Yet not an Attic, *but* Sicilian *Tale.*

We ſee from the firſt three Verſes that the *Romans* were fond of the Wit of *Greece*, and that of the *Greek* dramatic Poets thoſe of *Athens* were the firſt in their Favour: however, the Prologue tells us that, tho the Poet has copyed the Subject of this Play from the *Greek*, yet it is not from an *Attic* but a *Sicilian* Author. Let us conſider the laſt Verſe here quoted from the Prologue with a Paſſage from the firſt Epiſtle of the ſecond Book of *Horace*, and we may be aſſured of the *Greek* Poet from whom this Play was tranſlated.

Dicitur Afrani *Toga convenire* Menandro,
Plautus *ad Exemplar* Seculi *properare* Epicharmi.

Afranius

Afranius is ſayed to have equaled *Menander*, and *Plautus* to come up to *Epicharmus* the *Sicilian* Poet, who was his Pattern. From the Paſſage in the Prologue to this Play, and from theſe Verſes of *Horace*, I can not but conclude the *Menaechmi* a Tranſlation, or Imitation, of one of the Comedys of *Epicharmus*, as very likely ſome of thoſe without Prologues, and ſome of them which are loſſed, might have been. The Buſyneſs of SHAKESPEARE's *Comedy of Errors* is copyed from this of *Plautus*: Mr. *Theobald* ſays, in his firſt Note on the *Comedy of Errors*, that the *Menaechmi* of *Plautus* was tranſlated into *Engliſh*, and printed in Quarto in the Year 1515, Half a Century before *Shakeſpeare* was born.

12. *Miles glorioſus*, the *braging Soldier*, or the *Boaſter*. This Play has no Prologue. *Terence* was, in his own Times, accuſed of taking the Characters of *Thraſo* and *Gnatho* in his *Eunuch* from thoſe of *Pyrgopolinices* and *Artotrogus*, the Braggadocio and Paraſite, in this Play; but that Cenſure was without any Foundation, as will appear from the following ſhort Examination into the Merits of thoſe Characters; which I take from one of my own Notes on the Prologue to the *Eunuch* in my Edition of *Terence*. "*Pyrgopolinices* and *Thraſo* are

" both full of themſelves, both boaſt of " their Valour and their Intimacy with " Princes, and both fancy themſelves be- " loved by all the Women who ſee them; " and they are both played off by their " Paraſites; but they differ in their Man- " ners and their Speech: PLAUTUS's *Pyr-* " *gopolinices* is always in the Clouds, and " talking big, and of Blood and Wounds, " like our Heros commonly called *Dar-* " *bey Captains:* TERENCE's *Thraſo* never " ſays too little or too much, but is an " eaſy ridiculous Character, continually " ſupplying the Audience with Mirth, " without the wild extravagant Bluſter of " *Pyrgopolinices: Plautus* and *Terence* both " took their Soldiers and Paraſites from " *Menander*, but gave them different " Dreſſes."

13. *Mercator*, the *Merchant*, is from the *Greek* of *Philemon*, as we are told in the Prologue:

Graece haec vocatur Emporos PHILEMONIS,
Eadem Latine Mercator MARCI ATTII.

This is in Greek PHILEMON's Emp'ros *call'd,*
In Latin MARCUS ATTIUS *his* Mercator.

14. *Pſeudolus* is ſo called from the Servant in the Play of that Name: the Title is

is *Greek*, Ψευδολος, and ſignifys an *Impoſtor*. The Prologue, which is too full of Quibbles, takes no Notice of the Buſyneſs of the Play, as moſt of the Prologues do; nor are we told in it that it is tranſlated from any *Greek* Comedy. *Cicero* tells us, in his Treatiſe *de Senectute*, that this and *Truculentus* were two of the Poet's favourite Plays.

15. *Poenulus*, the *Carthaginian*, was taken from the *Greek*, and was in that Language called Καρχεδλωνιος, as the Prologue informs us, without naming the *Greek* Poet:

CARCHEDONIUS *vocatur haec Comoedia,*
Latine PLAUTI *Patruus Pultiphagonides.*

This Comedy is CARCHEDONIUS *call'd,*
In Latin 'tis PLAUTUS *his* PUNIC UNCLE.

Καρχεδλωνιος ſignifys *Punic* or *Carthaginian*, as does *Pultiphagonides*, which is the ſame with *Pultiphagus*, a Word that our Poet uſes in the third Act of his *Moſtellaria*, which *Scaliger* there interpretets by *Poenus*. I muſt here obſerve that all the Copys which I have ſeen have *Plautus*, not *Plauti*, in the ſecond Verſe which I here quote from the Prologue; which certainly was not the original Word there: of the ſame Opinion was *Muretus*, tho at the ſame Time he mi-

ſtook the Meaning of *Pultiphagonides*; of which I have ſayed more in my Note on this Paſſage. In the third and fourth Verſes of the Prologue our Poet ſeems to have burleſqued the Tautology and Bombaſt of a *Greek* tragic Poet: the firſt four Lines are theſe:

Achillem ARISTARCHI *mihi imitari lubet*;
Inde mihi Principium capiam ex ea Tragœdia:
Sileteque, et tacete, atque Animum advortite;
Audire jubet vos Imperator hiſtricus.

I am diſpos'd to imitate th' ACHILLES
Of ARISTARCHUS; *from which Tragedy*
I ſhall begin my Prologue to this Play:
Be ſilent, ſpeak not, and Attention lend,
A tragic Prince commands ye to attend.

The Tautology of *Sileteque, et tacete*, and the big Language of *Jubet Imperator hiſtricus*, ſavour ſtrongly of Burleſque. The common Reading of the laſt Word but one of the firſt Verſe is *commentari: Muretus* prefers *imitari*, and I think judiciouſly; for all Burleſque is Imitation.

There is an Air of great and unaffected Piety thro the Character of *Hanno* the *Carthaginian*, the Father of the two Girls who were ſtole from their own Country and ſold in *Greece*: the firſt Speech of the fifth Act, which is looked upon as a curious Piece of Anti-

Antiquity, is as fervent a Prayer, and Part of it as ſenſible, as any which I have ſeen, if *Petitus* has given a juſt Tranſlation of the original *Punic*, which I never ſaw controverted. The Editors give that *Punic* Speech in Verſe as they do the *Latin*; but I am inclined to think that neither of them ever formed to themſelves a juſt Scale of Meaſure for either Trimeter or Tetrameter in that Speech. *Plautus* has, in the laſt Act of this Comedy, ſhewed his Regard to the Maſters of thoſe Arts which adorn Life, by the honourable Mention which he has made of *Apelles* and *Zeuxes*: they were poſſibly named in the *Greek* Play from which this was tranſlated; yet, if they were, our Poet's Regard plainly appears by keeping them in: there is ſomething very elegant in the Manner in which he has introduced them; and I ſhall conclude my Remarks on this Play with that Paſſage and with ſome Obſervations on it. A young Fellow, in Love with one of the *Carthaginian* Siſters, being preſent at the firſt Interview betwixt their Father and them, and obſerving the paternal Fondneſs of one and the Appearance of filial Love and Piety in the other, crys out,

O!

O! Appella, O! Zeuxis Pictor,
Cur numero eſtis mortui? hinc Exemplum ut pingeretis!
Nam alios Pictores non moror hujus Modi tractare
Exempla.

O! Apelles, O! you Painter Zeuxes, why are
ye dead ſo ſoon? that you might draw from hence ſuch an
Example! For I wou'd not detain other Painters to
handle Subjects of this Sort.

Numero has the ſame Meaning here as *nimium cito*, as it has in the third Act of *Caſina*, and in the 7th Verſe of the laſt Act of *Miles glorioſus*. Pathetic Scenes in Comedy are not frequent; nor are they to be introduced but with great Care and Delicacy; and, where they are ſo, they have an agreeable Effect, eſpecially if the comic Part afterwards is ſo judiciouſly managed as to relieve the Mind from its Concern by natural and maſterly Scenes of Mirth: Inſtances of which are rare; yet they have been practiced with Succeſs by ſome, both of the Antients and Moderns, as by *Plautus* in this Play, by *Terence* in his *Andrian* and *Self-tormentor*, and by Sir *Richard Steele* in his *Conſcious Lovers*.

16. *Perſa.* The Title of this Play is taken from the following Circumſtance in it. A Servant pretends to be a *Perſian*, in Order to promote a Fellow-ſervant's Deſign on

on a Cock-bawd. This Play has no Prologue to it. In ſome of the Lives of our Poet we are told that this Comedy is ſo called from *Perſa* the Name of a Slave in the Play; which is a flagrant Inſtance of Biographers writing on the Works of Authors which they never read.

17. *Rudens*, the *Cable*, is taken from the *Greek* of *Diphilus*, as we are informed by the Prologue. The Reaſon of the Title appears in the third Scene of the fourth Act.

18. *Stichus*. The Name of this Comedy is from a Slave in the Play: there is no Prologue to it: *Stephanium* indeed, a Woman-ſervant, in the 3d Scene of the 5th Act, addreſſes herſelf to the Spectators. *Plautus* has in this Comedy drawed a Pattern of female Conſtancy; and one of the Wives ſpeaks, in a very narrow Compaſs, more good Senſe than we find in many whole modern Plays: ſhe is often ſententious, and utters Maxims which might have flowed from the Lips of *Socrates*.

19. *Trinummus*, the *Treaſure*, was taken from the *Greek* of *Philemon*: ſays the Prologue,

Huic nomen Graece eſt THESAURO *Fabulae*;
PHILEMO *ſcripſit!* Plautus *vortit barbare.*

This

This Comedy in Greek is call'd the TREASURE; PHILEMON *was the Author of it*; PLAUTUS *Tranſlated it into the Latin Tongue.*

The Prologue is a Dialogue betwixt *Luxury* and *Want*, and has good Senſe and Satire in it.

20. *Truculentus*, the *Churl*, has a Prologue to it; but the *Greek* Poet from whom it is taken is not mentioned in it. This Comedy was one of *Plautus*'s Favourites, as I have obſerved in what I before ſayed on *Pſeudolus*. The Character, which gives the Title to the Play, has but a ſmall Share of the Action.

Beſides theſe twenty Comedys we have Nothing remaining of our Poet's but ſome few Scraps, preſerved in Quotations, from his loſſed Plays.

The Prologues, we ſee, are chiefly as Arguments to the Plays, informing the Spectators of the Buſyneſs of them: of the ſame Sort are ſome of *Shakeſpeare*'s, as that to his Tragedy of *Romeo* and *Juliet*; which is a wrong Method; for the Poet ſhould give no previous Information of the Buſyneſs to come; for if any Explanation is neceſſary towards making the Buſyneſs of a Play clear, beſides what ariſes from the Play itſelf, that Play is defective: and,

when

when the Buſyneſs appears unperplexed from the Beginning of the firſt Scene, ſuch an Information is unneceſſary. This Manner of writing Prologues, that is of chuſing the Buſyneſs of the Play for the Subject of the Prologue, ſeems the moſt obvious, the moſt ready to offer itſelf to the Meditation of the Poet in the Infancy of the Stage; it is therefore no Wonder that the earlyeſt Writers of different Countrys ſhould tread in the ſame obvious Tract.

Whatever Errors, whatever Defects, we may diſcover in the Comedys of the Antients, without one particular Excellence they would have had no Chance of having been handed down to us, that is the Purity, the almoſt unexceptionable Purity, of Stile which runs thro them all: their loweſt Characters are drawed in Language that is pure; and the neceſſary Humour is ſtill preſerved: the Want of this Purity of Stile is too viſible in moſt of our modern Comedys: indeed the greater Part of our comic Poets ſeem to have neglected, or to have been ignorant of, the general Rules of Syntax; and ſome of our moſt entertaining Comedys are ſo defective in them, that there is no Poſſibility of ſuch Plays being underſtood, after the Manners and Cuſtoms of the Age in which they were wrote ſhall ceaſe,

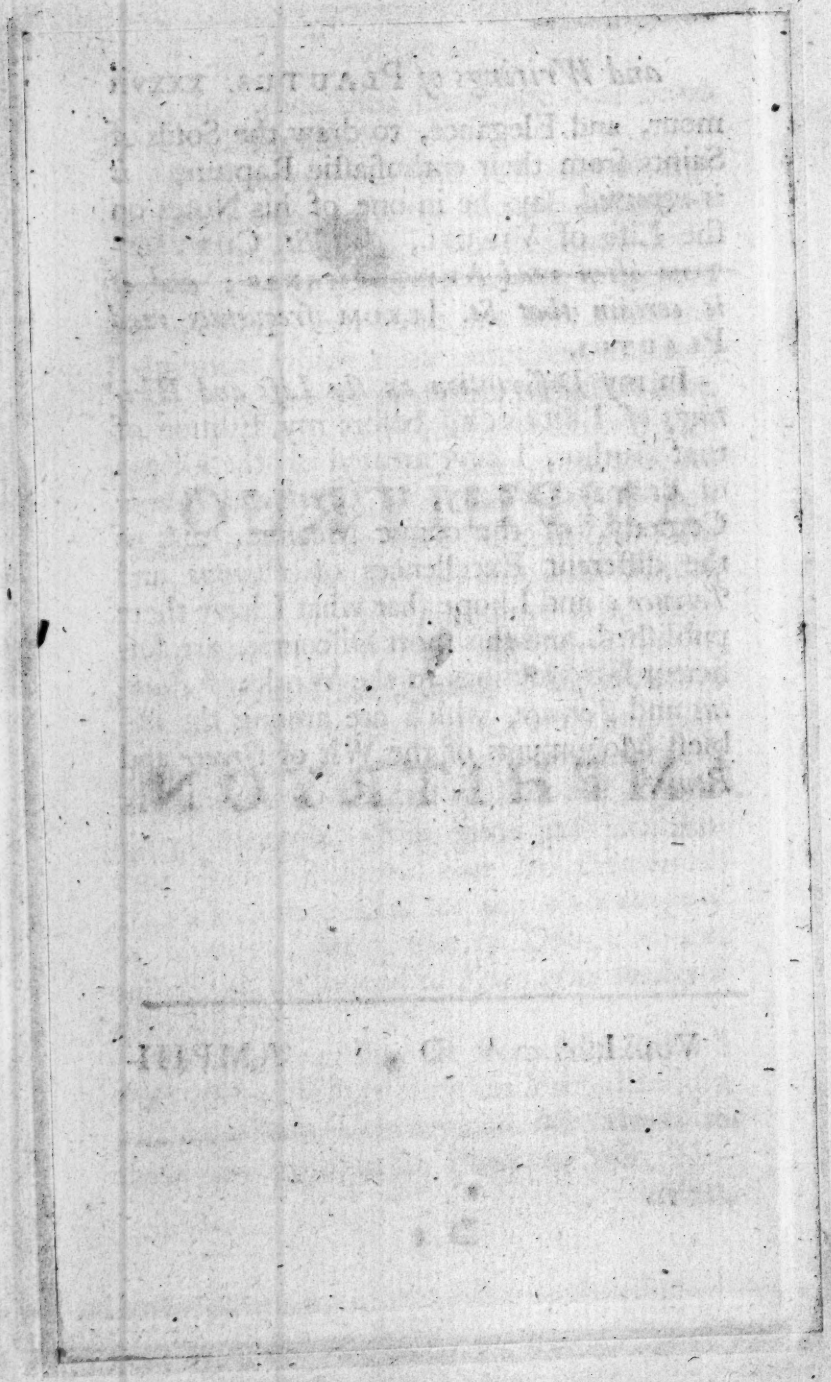
ceaſe, and when their Language ſhall be no longer vernacular.

To enumerate all the Inſtances of Approbation which *Varro*, *Cicero*, and other great Writers among the Antients, have left of our Poet, would be both tedious and needleſs; but I can not here omit the Judgement which a late excellent modern Author and a *Frenchman* has paſſed on him. Mr. *Rollin*, who to an extenſive Knowledge had joined the niceſt Diſcernment and politeſt Taſte, in his *Roman Hiſtory* ſays of *Plautus* that *he has often low Expreſſions and extravagant Pleaſantrys; but theſe Faults*, continues he, *are no Hindrances to his being an excellent Poet, and they are happyly attoned for by many fine Qualitys: his Writings are univerſally approved for Purity and Eloquence of Diction; and they contain admirable Maxims for the Conduct of Life and Regulation of Manners.* The ſame judicious Author likewiſe obſerves *that the Comedys of* PLAUTUS *were acted not only in the Reign of* AUGUSTUS, *but in that of* DIOCLESIAN, *which was three hundred Years after the Birth of* CHRIST.

To this ſhort Extract from Mr. *Rollin* I ſhall add a Paſſage from his learned and no leſs ingenious Countryman Mr. *Bayle*, to ſhew how great is the Power of Wit, Humour,

mour, and Elegance, to draw the Souls of Saints from their enthuſiaſtic Raptures: *it is reported*, ſays he in one of his Notes on the Life of VIRGIL, *that St.* CHRYSOSTOM *often read* ARISTOPHANES; *and it is certain that St.* JEROM *frequently read* PLAUTUS.

In my *Diſſertation on the Life and Writings of* TERENCE, before my Edition of that Author, I have treated of the Origin of dramatic Poetry, of *Greek* and *Roman* Comedy, of the comic Meaſure, and of the different Excellences of *Plautus* and *Terence*; and I hope that what I have there publiſhed, and this ſhort Diſcourſe, are ſufficient Introductions to the Works of *Plautus* and *Terence*, which are among the nobleſt Monuments of the Wit of *Greece* and *Rome*.



AMPHITRUO.

AMPHITRYON.

FABULAE INTERLOCUTORES.

JUPITER.
MERCURIUS.
AMPHITRUO.
BLEPHARO, Navis Gubernator.
SOSIA, Servos *Amphitruonis*.

ALCUMENA, Uxor *Amphitruonis*.
BROMIA, Ancilla *Alcumenae*.

Scena THEBAE.

Perſons of the PLAY.

JUPITER.
MERCURY.
AMPHITRYON.
BLEPHARO, *Pilot of a Ship.*
SOSIA, Servant to *Amphitryon.*

ALCMENA, *Amphitryon*'s Wife.
BROMIA, Servant to *Alcmena.*

The Scene THEBES.

PROLOGUS.

MERCURIUS.

UT vos in voſtris voltis (1) Mercimoniis (2)
Emundis, vendundiſque, me laetum (3) Lucris
Adficere, atque adjuvare in Rebus omnibus,
Et ut Res, Rationeſque (4) voſtrorum omnium,
Bene expedire voltis, peregrique et Domi,
Bonoque atque amplo auctare perpetuo Lucro,
Quaſque incepiſtis Res, quaſque inceptabitis,
Et uti bonis vos voſtroſque omnis (5) Nuntiis

Me

1. *Some of the Commentators on this Word tell us that it was the Language of the* Umbri *to change* u *into* o, *and* Plautus *being of* Umbria *followed the Orthography of his Country*; *but the learned* Turnebus, *in his Note on a Paſſage in the firſt Book of* QUINCTILIAN's Inſtitutes *concerning the Letters* o *and* u, *ſays otherwiſe: he quotes a Paſſage from* Pliny, *in which that Author ſays* ſeveral Citys in *Italy* wanted the Letter *o* and uſed the Vowel *u* in the Room of it, and the People of *Umbria* and *Tuſcany* did this more than any other. *The Truth is that the old* Latins *never doubled the* u, *as I have ſhewed from* Quinctilian *in a Note in the firſt Scene of the* Andrian *in my Edition of* Terence: Quinctilian *tells us likewiſe that* Scipio Africanus *was the firſt who changed the* o *in* vortex *and* vorſus *into* e. *The Change of* voſter *into* veſter *was unnatural*; *for* voſter *is from* vos *as* noſter *from* nos.

2. Epignomus, *in the firſt Scene of the third Act of* Stichus, *returns Thanks to* Neptune, *and then to* Mercury *in theſe Words*,

Simul

The PROLOGUE.

MERCURY.

AS ye expect my Influence in your Trade,
Whene'er ye buy or ſell, as ye expect
My favourable Aid in all Affairs,
As ye wou'd have your Bus'neſs and Accounts,
At Home, abroad, conducted with Succeſs,
As ye wou'd have whate'er ye undertake,
And what ye ſhall hereafter undertake,
Encreas'd with good, with large, and conſtant, Gain,
As ye wou'd have me bring good News for you
And all your Familys, and have me be

The

Simul *Mercurio*, qui me in Mercimoniis
Juvit, Lucriſque quadruplicavit Rem meam.
And to *Mercury*, who aſſiſted me in my Traffic, and encreaſed my Stock four-fold.

3. Laetum *is here uſed in the ſame Senſe with* propitium, *as, in the contrary Senſe*, Propertius *uſes* triſtes Dii *as* irati Dii. *The firſt Word in the next Verſe is generally ſpelled* afficere; *but I have ſhewed, in a Note to the firſt Scene of the* Andrian *in my Edition of* Terence, *that the antient* Latins *preſerved the Prepoſitions entire in Compounds.*

4. *The Word* Rationes *here means Accounts regularly keeped:* expeditae Rationes, *ſays* Lambinus, *are Accounts which are clear and not in the leaſt confuſed; and* impeditae Rationes *are Accounts when we owe more than is owing to us.*

5. *I have given Reaſons for the accuſative Caſe plural in* omnis *and ſome other Words ſometimes ending in* is, *in a Note in the ſecond Scene of the fourth Act of the* Andrian *of* Terence, *Verſe the* 10th.

Me adficere voltis, ea adferam, eaque ut nuntiem,
Quae maxume (6) in Rem voſtram communem ſient,
(Nam vos quidem id jam ſcitis conceſſum et datum
Mihi eſſe ab Dis aliis, Nuntiis ut praeſim et Lucro,)
Haec ut me voltis adprobare, adnitier
Lucrum ut perenne vobis ſemper ſuppetat,
Ita huic facietis Fabulae Silentium,
Itaque aequi et juſti hic eritis omnes Arbitri.

Nunc cujus Juſſu venio, et quamobrem venerim,
Dicam; ſimulque ipſe eloquar Nomen meum.
Jovis Juſſu venio: Nomen *Mercuri* (7) eſt mihi:
Pater huc me miſit ad vos oratum meus,
Tametſi pro Imperio vobis quod dictum foret
Sci'bat facturos, quippe qui intellexerat
Vereri vos ſe et metuere, ut aequom eſt, *Jovem*;
Verum profecto hoc petere me precario
A vobis juſſit leniter Dictis bonis;
Etenim ille (8), cujus hoc Juſſu venio, *Juppiter*
Non minus quam voſt'rum quivis formidat Malum:
Humana Matre natus, humano Patre,
Mirari non eſt aequom ſibi ſi praetimet;
Atque ego quoque, etiam (9) qui *Jovis* ſum Filius,
Contagione mei Patris metuo Malum:
Propterea Pace advenio; et Pacem ad vos adfero:
Juſtam Rem et facilem eſſe oratam (10) a vobis volo;
Nam juſte ad juſtos (11) juſti ſum Orator datus;

Nam

---

6. Quinctilian, *in his firſt Book* de Inſtit. Orat. *tells us poſitively that the antient* Latins *writ* optumus *and* maxumus, *not* optimus *and* maximus.

7. *The Reader may ſee my Reaſons for not doubling the* i *in certain genitive Caſes in the* 37*th Note to the* Andrian *in my Edition of* Terence.

8. *By this he means the Actor who acts the Part of* Jupiter.

The Meſſenger of what may greatly prove
To the Advantage of the common Weal,
(For ye well know the other Gods have giv'n
To me the Preſidence o'er News and Gain,)
As in all theſe ye wiſh for my Indulgence,
And that I ſhou'd endeavour to continue
A never-ceaſing Flow of Profit to you,
So ſhall ye give Attention to this Play,
So all ſhall be impartial Judges here.
By whoſe Command I come, and why I come,
I'll now relate, and likewiſe tell my Name.
I come by *Jove*'s Command: *Mere'ry*'s my Name:
My Father ſent me here to beg your Favour,
Tho by his Pow'r he knew he might command,
For well he knows that, as you ought, you fear,
And, as you ought, how much you rev'rence, *Jove*;
Yet has he order'd me to uſe Intreaty,
With fair and gentle Words to ſeek Attention;
For that ſame *Jove*, by whoſe Command I come,
As fearful is of Harm as one of you:
Born of a Sire and Mother human both,
No Wonder that he is poſſeſs'd with Fear;
And I, e'en I who am the Son of *Jove*,
Have from my Father catch'd the Fear of Harm:
Therefore in Peace I come, and bring ye Peace:
What I wou'd have of you's eaſy and juſt
To be requir'd; I come Ambaſſador
Of one that's juſt, ſent juſtly to the juſt;

For

---

9. *Moſt Editions have a Comma after* etiam *and none at* quoque; *which makes it tautologous: it is* etiam qui Filius ſum *Jovis*, e'en I who am the Son of *Jove*.

10. *The common Reading is* oratum: *the firſt Edition has* oratam.

11. *The vulgar Reading is* juſte ab juſtis juſtus ſum: *I prefer the Reading which I give in the Text, (which is from* Acidalius,) *becauſe it is conſiſtent with the Meaſure,*

Nam injuſta a juſtis impetrare non decet;
Juſta autem ab injuſtis petere Inſipientia'ſt;
Quippe illi iniqui Jus ignorant, neque tenent.

Nunc jam huc Animum (12) ad ea quae loquor advortite.
Debetis velle quae velimus: meruimus,
Et ego et Pater, de vobis et Republica;
Nam quid ego memorem ut alios (13) in Tragoediis
Vidi, *Neptunum*, *Virtutem*, *Victoriam*,
Martem, *Bellonam*, conmemorare quae Bona
Vobis feciſſent? Qui's Benefactis meus Patér,
De'um Regnator, Architectus omnibus:
Set Mos illic numquam fuit Patri meo,
Ut exprobraret quod bonis faceret Boni:
Gratum arbitratur eſſe id a vobis ſibi, (14)
Meritoque vobis bona ſe facere quae facit.
Nunc quam Rem oratum huc veni primum proloquar;
Poſt Argumentum hujus eloquar Tragoediae:
Quid contraxiſtis Frontem? Quia Tragoediam
Dixi futuram hanc? Deus ſum, commutavero

Eandem

ſure, and agrees better with the Context than the other. As it now is, juſte, juſtos, *and* juſti, *are rightly applyed to the Perſon who is ſent, the Perſons to whom he is ſent, and the Perſon from whom he is ſent. Mr.* Echard *tranſlates this Verſe thus,* for 'tis a reaſonable God requires Reaſon from reaſonable People: *a Senſe very different from* Plautus's, *as is his Tranſlation of the two Verſes immediately following.* Orator, *in this Verſe, is* Ambaſſador, *as it is in the Prologue to the* Step-mother *and in the Prologue to the* Self-tormentor *of* Terence: *and* Marolles *juſtly tranſlates it* Ambaſſadeur *here. I have been more explicit on this Word in my 4th Note to* Terence's Hecyra.

12. *Moſt Editions have* omnes *after* Animum *without* ad. *Mr.* Marolles *rejects* huc *in this Verſe, and keeps in* omnes.

For from the juſt Injuſtice to exact
Unſeemly is; and from th' unjuſt to ſeek
Juſtice is fooliſh; for they neither know,
Nor pay Obſervance to, the Rule of Right.
Attend ye now to what I here ſhall ſay.
Our Will ſhou'd be your own: I and my Sire
Have well deſerv'd of you and your Republic;
For why ſhou'd I relate that I have ſeen
In Tragedys how other Deitys,
Neptune, and *Virtue*, *Victory*, and *Mars*,
Bellona too, have boaſted of the Good
Which they have done for you? Which Benefits
My Sire, the King of Gods, was Author of:
But it was ne'er a Cuſtom with my Father
T' upbraid the good with any Good he did:
He thinks ye grateful for whate'er he does,
And that ye well deſerve what he beſtows.
Now firſt I'll tell ye what I'm come to aſk;
And afterwards I will relate to you
The Argument of this our Tragedy:
Why that contracted Brow? Is it becauſe
A Tragedy I call'd it? I'm a God,
And

---

omnes. *The Reading which I chuſe is from the firſt Edition.* Huc *and* ad *are very ſignificant:* advortite Animum huc, ad ea quae loquor.

13. *Mr.* Echard *has tranſlated this Paſſage thus,* "*how often, in other Tragedys, have I ſeen the Gods,* "Neptune, Virtue," *&c. If Mr.* Echard *had ſeen ſuch a Reading as* ut aliis in Tragoediis, *which I have never met with, he ought to have rejected it as a very corrupt one:* Mercury's *calling this a Tragedy, ſoon after, ironically poſſibly led him into this Error.*

14. *Mr.* Marolles *has miſſed the Meaning of this Verſe, and has tautologouſly tranſlated it in the ſame Senſe with the next:* il eſt, *ſays the* Frenchman, perſuadé que vous eſtes dignes de ſes Faveurs, et que vous meritez ſes bonnes Graces.

Eandem hanc, ſi voltis, faciam ex Tragoedia
Comoedia ut ſit omnibus iiſdem Verſibus:
Utrum ſit, an non, voltis? Set ego ſtultior!
Quaſi neſciam vos velle, qui Divos ſiem!
Teneo quid Animi voſtri ſuper hac Re ſiet.
Faciam ut conmiſta ſit Tragicocomoedia;
Nam me perpetuo facere ut ſit Comoedia,
Reges quo veniant et Di, non par arbitror:
Quid igitur, quoniam hic ſervos Partes habet?
Faciam hanc, proinde ut dixi, Tragicocomoediam.

Nunc hoc me orare a vobis juſſit *Juppiter*,
Ut Conquiſitores (15) ſinguli in Subſellia
Eant, per totam Caveam, Spectatoribus,
Si cui Fautores delegatos viderint,
Ut ab (16) his in Cavea Pignus capiantur Togae: (17)
Sive etiam qui ambiſſent Palmam Hiſtrionibus,
Seu cuiquam Artifici (18), ſeu per ſcriptas Literas,
Sive qui ipſi ambiſſent, ſeu per Internuntium,
Sive adeo Aediles perfidioſe quoi duint,
Sirempſe (19) Legem juſſit eſſe *Juppiter*

Quaſi

15. *Theſe were Perſons appointed to go about the Theatre to diſcover whether there were any hired to applaud this or that Actor: the Reaſon for employing ſuch Inſpectors was becauſe he who performed his Part beſt had a Reward payed him by the Aediles, who were upon Oath to give the Reward without any Partiality.*

16. *The vulgar Editions all have* ut his *without* ab: Douza *gives* ab his. Gronovius *ſays that the fartheſt Part of the Amphitheatre was called* Cavea *from its Form,*

And I will change it, if it will oblige ye,
And from a Tragedy a Comedy
I'll make it, and in the ſame Verſes all:
Shall it be ſo or not? But what a Queſtion,
A fooliſh one, was that! As if that I,
Who am a God, was ign'rant of your Will!
I know what you wou'd have in this Affair.
I'll make it ſuch a Mixture that it may
Be juſtly call'd a Tragicomedy;
For 'tis not right, I think, where Kings and Gods
Appear, to make it only Comedy:
What's to be done then, ſince the Character
Here of a Slave is introduc'd? I'll make it,
As I have ſay'd, a Tragicomedy.
Now this has *Jove* commanded me to aſk
Of you, that the Inſpectors, ev'ry one,
May take their Rounds among the Audience,
In ev'ry Seat thro all the Houſe, and, if
They ſhall diſcover any delegated
Partial Applauders of an Actor, that
From them as Pledges they ſhall take their Gowns:
If any for the Actors ſhall obtain,
Or for ſome other of the Company,
The Prize by writing Letters to their Friends,
By ſending Meſſages, by Circumvention,
Or ſhou'd the Aediles contrary to their Oath
Give the Reward to any, *Jupiter*

Form, quia erat excavatus: *in this* Cavea *the Spectators ſat.*

17. Toga *was the Gown which the* Romans *wore in Times of Peace; and it was wore by none but Freemen.*

18. Artifici *is the ſame here with* ſcenico. TAUBM. Artifex *is* ſcenicus Artifex, *which is either Actor, Muſician, Singer, or Dancer.*

19. Sirempſe *is* ſimilem Re ipſa: *the Senſe is* ſimilem Re ipſa Legem juſſit eſſe Juppiter. LAMB. *If ſo,* ſirempſe *muſt be the ſixth Caſe of* firemps.

Quasi Magistratum sibi alterive ambiverit.
Virtute dixit vos Victores vivere
Non Ambitione, neque Perfidia; qui minus
Eadem Histrioni sit Lex quae summo Viro?
Virtute ambire oportet, non Fautoribus:
Sat habet Fautorum semper qui recte facit,
Si illis Fides est quibus est ea Res in Manu.
Hoc quoque etiam mihi in Mandatis dedit,
Ut Conquisitores fierent Histrionibus,
Qui sibi mandassent delegati ut plauderent,
Quive quo placeret alter feciſſent minus,
Eis Ornamenta et Corium uti conciderent.
Mirari nolim vos quapropter *Juppiter*
Nunc Histriones curet: ne miremini:
Ipse hanc acturu' 'st *Juppiter* Comoediam.
Quid admirati estis? Quasi vero novom
Nunc proferatur *Jovem* facere Histrioniam:
Etiam, Histriones Anno (20) cum in Proscenio hic
Jovem invoca'runt, venit; Auxilio eis fuit;
Praeterea certe prodit in Tragoedia.
Hanc Fabulam, inquam, hic *Juppiter* ipse aget,
Et ego una cum illo. Nunc vos Animum advortite,
Dum hujus Argumentum eloquar Comoediae.

Haec

20. *Says* Echard " *Some read it* Nannio cum in Proscenio, *supposing it an Allusion to a Play called* Nannium Proscenium, *from a famous Courtesan of that Name:*" *indeed* Philelphus *and* Meursius *give* Nannio, *and* Petitus Nano; *than either of which Nothing can be more rediculous.* Anno *is the Reading which is best supported. The learned* Boxhorn *takes* Anno *in the same Sense with* olim, jam dudum, jam pridem: *and*

Has order'd that the Law ſhou'd be in Force
As if that any one ſhou'd have obtain'd
By Indirection, for himſelf or other,
A Magiſtracy in the Commonwealth.
You live renown'd, ſay'd he, as Conquerors,
Not by Ambition, nor by Perfidy,
But by your Merit; why ſhou'd the ſame Law
Be leſs obſerv'd in Juſtice to an Actor
Than to the foremoſt Perſon of the State?
Merit, not Favour, ſhou'd acquire the Prize:
He that does well will always Fav'rers find,
If his Affairs are in impartial Hands.
This likewiſe has my Father giv'n in Charge,
That there ſhou'd be Inſpectors o'er the Actors,
That if among them any ſhou'd depute
Perſons to join in their Applauſe, or if
One Actor ſhou'd prevent another's pleaſing,
They ſhou'd be ſtrip'd and laſh'd for ſuch Offence.
I wou'd not have ye be ſurpris'd that *Jove*
Shou'd now concern himſelf about the Actors:
Wonder not now; for *Jupiter* himſelf
Will act a Part in this ſame Comedy.
Why do ye ſeem aſtoniſh'd? As if now
You firſt had hear'd that *Jupiter* turn'd Actor:
A Year ago, when on this Stage the Actors
Invok'd him, *Jove* appear'd and gave his Aid;
Which ſurely in a Tragedy he'll give.
In this Play *Jove* himſelf, I ſay, will act,
And I with him. Now your Attention lend,
While of this Comedy I tell the Argument.

and in this ſenſe is Anno *uſed in other Plays, as in the* 3*d Scene of the* 1*ſt Act of the* Menaechmi, *where one of the* Menaechmi *ſays,*

Quatuor Minis ego emi iſtanc Anno Uxori meae:

and the firſt Edition has Anno; *and the Author of the marginal Notes in the Copy at St.* John's *College cenſures* Nannio *as a corrupt Reading. Says* GRONOVIUS intelligitur *to* abhinc, *that is,* a Year from hence, *or* laſt Year; *which is a right Conſtruction.*

Haec Urbs eſt *Thebae:* in illiſce habitat Aedibus
Amphitruo, natus *Argis* ex *Argo* Patre;
Quicum *Alcumena* eſt nupta, *Electri* Filia:
Is nunc *Amphitruo* Praefectu' 'ſt Legionibus;
Nam cum *Telebois* Bellum eſt *Thebano* Poplo: (21)
Is, priuſquam hinc abiit ipſemet in Exercitum,
Gravidam *Alcumenam* Uxorem fecit ſuam:
Nam ego vos noviſſe credo jam ut ſit Pater meus,
Quam liber harum Rerum multarum ſiet, (22)
Quantuſque Amator ſiet, quod conplacitum 'ſt ſemel:
Is amare occepit *Alcumenam* clam Virum;
Uſuramque ejus Corporis cepit ſibi;
Et gravidam fecit is eam Conpreſſu ſuo.
Nunc, de *Alcumena* ut Rem teneatis rectius,
Utrinque 'ſt gravida, et ex Viro, et ex ſummo *Jove:*
Et meus Pater nunc intus hic cum illa cubat;
Et haec, ob eam Rem, Nox eſt facta longior,
Dum ille, quacum volt, Voluptatem capit;
Set ita adſimulavit ſe quaſi *Amphitruo* ſiet.

Nunc ne hunc Ornatum vos meum admiremini,
Quod ego huc proceſſi ſic cum ſervili Schema. (23)
Veterem atque antiquam Rem (24) novam ad vos proferam;
Propterea ornatus in novom inceſſi Modum;
Nam meus Pater intus nunc eſt: eccum, *Juppiter*
In *Amphitruonis* vortit ſeſe Imaginem;
Omneſque eum eſſe cenſent ſervi, qui vident,

Ita

---

21. *The ſame with* Populo, *as our Poet uſes it in other Paſſages. The* Teleboans *were Inhabitants of ſome of the ſmall* Greek *Iſles; of whom I ſhall ſoon make farther Remarks.*

22. *That is, ſays* Lambinus *very plainly,* quam libere moechetur. Nam, *in the preceding Verſe, is very unneceſſary, both to the Senſe and Meaſure.*

23. Schema *is a Kind of a Cloak that was worne by Slaves.*

This City's *Thebes:* and here *Amphitryon* dwells,
By Country and by Sire an *Argive* born;
Alcmena is his Wife, *Electryon*'s Daughter:
Amphitryon's General of the *Theban* Arms;
For the *Teleboans* are at War with *Thebes:*
Before he to the Army went from hence,
His Wife *Alcmena* pregnant was by him:
You, I believe, all know my Father's Mind,
How he indulges in Affairs like theſe,
How am'rouſly inclin'd when once inflam'd:
Alcmena he begun to love, unknown
His Paſſion to her Huſband; and on Int'reſt
He took her for his Uſe, poſſeſs'd the Dame,
And made her pregnant. Now, that you may know
Rightly *Alcmena*'s Caſe, ſhe is with Child
Both by her Huſband and imperial *Jove:*
E'en now my Sire here, in this Houſe, enjoys her:
And, for that Reaſon, is this Night prolong'd,
That he with her may have his Heart's Deſire;
But he has ta'en on him *Amphitryon*'s Form.
Be not aſtoniſh'd now at this my Garb,
That I appear thus in a ſervile Habit.
With an old Play, a very antient Play,
I now preſent ye, but the Dreſs is new;
Therefore am I in this new Manner dreſs'd;
For now my Father is within: behold
Jupiter turn'd into *Amphitryon*'s Form;
And ev'ry Slave that ſees him thinks he ſees
His Maſter, ſuch his Excellence in Change,

Slaves. Scal. *The moſt antient Romans uſed this Word in the feminine Gender; and afterwards it was declined in the Neuter:* Schema *therefore is not here for* Schemate *as ſome Editors have ignorantly ſayed it is.*

24. *I doubt not, from this Verſe, but that* Plautus *tranſlated the* Amphitryon *from a* Greek *Play: he here means that he brings an old* Greek *Play in a new Dreſs to the* Latins.

Ita Verſipellem (25) ſe facit, quando lubet.
Ego Servi ſumpſi *Soſiae* mihi Imaginem,
Qui cum *Amphitruone* abiit hinc in Exercitum,
Ut praeſervire amanti meo poſſem Patri,
Atque ut ne qui eſſem Familiares quaererent,
Verſari crebro hic quom viderent me Domi:
Nunc quom eſſe credent ſervom, et Conſervom ſuum,
Haut quiſquam quaeret qui ſiem, aut quid venerim.
Pater nunc intus ſuo Animo Morem gerit;
Cubat complexus, cujus cupiens maxume 'ſt.
Quae illi ad Legionem facta ſunt memorat Pater
Meus *Alcumenae:* illa illum cenſet Virum
Suum eſſe, quae cum Moecho eſt: ibi nunc meus Pater
Memorat Legiones Hoſtium ut fugaverit,
Quo Pacto Donis ſit donatus plurimis:
Ea Dona, quae illic *Amphitruoni* ſunt data,
Abſtulimus: facile meus Pater quod volt facit.
Nunc hodie *Amphitruo* veniet huc ab Exercitu,
Et *Soſia* Servos, cujus ego hanc fero Imaginem.
Nunc internoſſe ut nos poſſitis facilius,
Ego has habebo hic uſque in Petaſo Pinnulas;
Tunc meo Patri autem Torulus inerit aureus
Sub Petaſo: id Signum *Amphitruoni* non erit:
Ea Signa Nemo horuncce Familiarum
Videre poterit; verum vos videbitis:
Set *Amphitruonis* illic eſt Servos *Soſia*;
A Portu illic nunc cum Laterna advenit:
Abigam jam ego illunc advenientem ab Aedibus:
Adeſt, ferit. Operae Pretium hic ſpectantibus
Jovem atque *Mercurium* facere Hiſtrioniam.

25. Verſipellem *is a well choſen Word here, alluding to the various Shapes in which* Jupiter *is ſayed to have carryed on his Amours; which are partly enumerated in this* Greek *Diſtich from the* Anthologia.

Zeus

When he's inclin'd to take a diff'rent Shape.
I've taken *Sosia*'s Form, (who went from hence
To the Camp with *Amphitryon*,) that I may
Assist my Father in his am'rous Sport,
And that none of the Family may enquire
Who or what am I, when they see me here
Frequent about the House: now, as they think
I am their Fellow-Servant and a Slave,
Not one will ask me who I am, or why
I hither come. My Father now within
Indulges all his Heart's Desire with her
Whom most he loves, in close Embraces join'd.
My Sire is now relating to *Alcmena*
What was transacted in the Army: she
Takes the Adult'rer for her Husband, while
He tells her how he chac'd the hostile Bands,
And what vast Presents were bestow'd on him,
The Manner too in which they were bestow'd:
The Gifts which there were to *Amphitryon* giv'n
We took away: whate'er my Father wills
That he with Ease performs. This Day, and soon,
Amphitryon will come hither from the Army,
And with him *Sosia* comes his Slave, whose Form,
Whose very Likeness, I this Instant wear.
Now, that ye may distinguish us more easyly,
Here on my Hat these little Wings I'll wear;
My Sire will have a golden Tuft on his:
That Mark will not be on *Amphitryon*'s Hat:
None of this Family will know these Marks;
Yet you will see them:——but *Amphitryon*'s Slave,
Sosia, is yonder, coming from the Port
Now with his Lanthorn: I shall drive him soon
Away from hence: he's knocking at the Door.
It will be worth your while to see *Jove* here
And *Mercury* perform the Parts of Actors.

Ζευς Κυκνος, Ταυρος, Σατυρος, δι Ερωτα, τε Χρυσος,
Ληδης, Ευρωπης, Αντιοπης, Δαναης.
Jupiter *transforms himself into a Swan, a Bull, a Satyr, and into Gold, for Love, as he did for* Leda, Europa, Antiope, *and* Danae.

AMPHITRUO.

ACTUS I. SCENA I.

SOSIA et *MERCURIUS.*

SOSIA.

QUI me alter eſt audacior Homo? Aut qui me confidentior?
Juventutis Mores qui ſciam, qui hoc (26) Noctis ſolus ambulem?
Quid faciam nunc, ſi Treſviri (27) me in Carcerem conpigerint?
Inde cras e promptuaria (28) Cella depromar ad Flagrum;
Nec Cauſam liceat dicere mihi; neque in Hero quicquam Auxili fiet; 5
Nec quiſquam ſit quin me omnes eſſe dignum deputent: ita,
Quaſi Incudem, me miſerum Homines (29) octo validi caedant: ita
Peregre adveniens Hoſpitio publicitus accipiar.

Haec

26. *That is* hoc Tempore Noctis,

27. Plautus *is guilty of an Error here by uſing* Roman *Cuſtoms to* Grecian *Characters. The* Triumviri *in* Rome *had in them the Power of paſſing Sentence on Criminals; and they had eight Lictors, whoſe Duty it was to bring Offenders before the Magiſtrate and to execute the Sentence paſſed on them. I may with the ſame Propriety make Uſe of our Watch here.*

28. *This, as* Taubmannus *obſerves, is the Joke of a Slave, who compares a Priſon to a Pantry; for* Cella promp-

AMPHITRYON.

ACT I. SCENE I.

SOSIA and *MERCURY*.

SOSIA.

IS there a bolder, or more undaunted, Fellow than myſelf? I who know the Manners of our Youth, and yet dare walk alone at this Time of Night? What ſhall I do now, if the Watch (27) ſhou'd ſeize me and carry me to Priſon? I ſhall be drag'd from thence to-morrow, as from the Pantry, and toſs'd up a Diſh for the Whipping-poſt; nor ſhall I be allow'd to ſpeak one Word in my own Defence; nor can my Maſter be of any Uſe to me; and ev'ry Body will think that I deſerve all this: ſo my poor Back will be beat upon, like an Anvil, by eight (29) luſty Fellows: and this will be my public Reception after my Travels. This my Maſter's Unreaſonableneſs brings upon me, who forc'd me at this Time of Night from the Port againſt my Will. Cou'd not he have ſent me hither early in the Morning?

---

promptuaria *is the Place in which the Victuals and Kitchin Utenſils were kep't: ſo* Soſia's *Joke is, that as the Meat, or any Proviſion, is brought from the* Cella promptuaria, *that is the Pantry near Hand, to the Dreſſer in the Kitchin, ſo he perhaps may be brought from the Priſon to the Whipping-poſt, to be cooked up there. It is a very low Joke, and fit only for the Mouth of a Slave.*

29. *The Lictors.* Plautus *proceeds to make a* Theban *Character ſpeak in the Cuſtom of a* Roman.

Haec Heri Inmodeſtia coegit, me qui hoc
Noctis e Portu ingratis excitavit.
Nonne idem hoc (30) Lucu me mittere potuit?
Opulento Homini hoc magis Servitus dura eſt,
Hoc magis miſer eſt Divitis Servos,
Nocteſque Dieſque aſſiduo (31) ſatis ſuperque eſt,
Quo facto, aut dicto, adeſt Opus, quietus ne ſis.
Ipſe Dominus Dives, Operis et Laboris expers,
Quodcumque Homini accidit, libere poſſe retur;
Aequom eſſe putat; non reputat Laboris quid fiet;
Nec aequom anne iniquom imperet cogitabit: (32)
Ergo in Servitute expetunt multa iniqua:
Habendum et ferendum hoc Onus eſt cum Labore.

[*Seorſim.*

M E R.

Satius eſt me queri illo Modo Servitutem; hodie
Qui fuerim liber, eum nunc potivit (33) Pater
Servitutis: hic, qui Verna natus eſt, queritur:
Sum vero Verna Verbo. (34)

[*Seorſim.*
S. O. S.

---

30. *Every Edition has* hoc Luci *here; which is Nonſenſe and ungrammatical. I venture to give* Lucu; *and I doubt not but* Plautus *writ ſo: in the* Adelphi *of* Terence, *Act* 5, *Sc.* 1, *V.* 55, *we find* cum primo Lucu, as ſoon as 'tis Day-light. Hoc *is an Adverb in the ſame ſenſe with* huc.

31. Aſſiduus, ſive Dives, *ſays* Douza. *Many have ignorantly taken* aſſiduo *here for an Adverb, ſignifying* conſtantly: *but* aſſiduus *is here* rich; *which* Cicero *has well explained: ſays he,* cum Lex Aelia Sentia aſſiduo Vindicem aſſiduum eſſe jubeat, locupletem jubet locupleti; locuples enim eſt aſſiduus, appellatus ab aere dando. *We ſee here that* aſſiduus *was the Word uſed for rich in the* Aelian *Law; which* Cicero *thought himſelf under a Neceſſity to explain.*

32. *Theſe*

Morning? A rich Man's Service is in this the harder, in this is a rich Man's Servant the more miſerable, that, over and above, Night and Day, at a Nod or a Word, there is always ſomething to do, ſo that you can never have any Reſt. The Maſter that's rich, and free from Toil and Labour, ſuppoſes a Servant can eaſyly do any Thing, whatever happens to him; he thinks it but juſt, and makes no Account of a Man's Labour; nor will he conſider whether his Commands are right or wrong: there are therefore many Oppreſſions in Servitude: the Burden muſt be borne and endur'd with Pains.

[*To himſelf.*

MER.

I have more Reaſon to complain in that Manner of Slavery: I, that was juſt before free, am now by my Father forc'd into Servitude: this Fellow, who was born a Slave, makes Complaints: but I am only a nominal Slave.

[*To himſelf.*

SOS.

---

32. *Theſe two Verſes* Echard *tranſlates thus:* they reckon poor Men's Greaſe at three Half-pence a Pound, and care not a Fart whether their Commands be reaſonable or no. *I aſk Pardon of my Readers for quoting ſuch filthy Stuff; but it is to give a Specimen of what they might have expected if ſuch a Tranſlator had gone thro this Author.* Echard *is very injudicious and groſsly low and vulgar.*

33. Potior *is the Word moſt in Uſe; but our Poet here uſes the Verb in an active Conjugation.*

34. *The common Editions have* Verbero *here; which is Nonſenſe; yet ſome of the Commentators have ſtupidly endeavoured to explain it. I find* Verbo *in the firſt Edition which gives it a good Meaning.*

SOS.

Numero (35) mihi in Mentem fuit,
Dis advenientem Gratias pro Meritis agere, atque adloqui;
Nae illi, Aedipol, si Merito meo referre studeant Gratias,
Aliquem Hominem adlegent qui mi' advenienti Os occillet probe;
Quoniam bene quae in me fecerunt ingrata ea habui atque irrita.

[*Seorsim.*

MER.

Facit ille, quod volgo haut solent, ut quid se sit dignum sciat.

[*Seorsim.*

SOS.

Quod numquam opinatus fui, neque alius quisquam Civium
Sibi eventurum, id contigit, ut salvi potiremur Domum.
Victores, victis Hostibus, Legiones reveniunt Domum,
Duello extincto, atque internecatis Hostibus,
Qui multa *Thebano* Populo acerba objecit Funera:
Id Vi et Virtute Militum victum atque expugnatum Oppidum 'st,
Imperio atque Auspicio Heri mei *Amphitruonis* maxume;
Qui (36) Praeda, atque Agro Adoreaque, adfecit Populares suos;
Regique *Thebano Creonti* Regnum stabilivit suum:
Me a Portu praemisit Domum, ut haec nuntiem Uxori suae,

Ut

35. Numero *has the same Meaning as* nimium cito: *so our Poet uses it in the last Act of* Miles gloriosus, *where* Cario *says* numero dicis. *See my Observation on this Word in my Dissertation on* Plautus, *in the Article of* Poenulus.

36. Qui *is not in the Text in the common Editions*; Douza

SOS.

'Twas just now in my Head to return Thanks to the Gods for their Favours on my Arrival here; but, by *Pollux*, if they were to reward me according to my Merit, they would appoint somebody to greet me with a Dash on the Chaps; for I have made but ingrateful Returns for all the Good which they have done for me.

[*To himself.*

MER.

He plainly discovers that he knows his own Merits, which is not usual among such Fellows.

[*To himself.*

SOS.

It has happen'd contrary to my Expectation and to that of every other Citizen, that we are arriv'd safely Home. The Enemy subdued, our victorious Army is marching homeward, the War at an End, and the Foe slain, who heap'd many bitter Sorrows on the *Thebans:* the Town was besieg'd and conquer'd by the Pow'r and Bravery of our Soldiers, especially under the Command and Authority of my Master *Amphitryon*; who made a Division of the Booty, both of Land and Corn, among his People, and fix'd our King and Countryman *Creon* in his Kingdom of *Thebes:* he has sent me Home from the Port, that I may relate these Things to his Wife, and tell her with what Conduct, Command, and Weight, he has discharg'd his public Trust: I am considering how I shall deliver all this to her when I come be-

Douza *gives it; and I venture to insert it; because it is agreeable to the Context; and the Verse is a Tetrameter with it. The Word* Adorea *was used by the antient* Romans *for all Kinds of Produce arising from Agriculture; which, being in the Division of a Booty the Reward of the Soldiers, became afterwards synonimous with* Laus *and* Gloria, Praise *and* Glory.

Ut geſſerit Rem (37) publicam Ductu, Imperio, Auſpicio, ſuo:
Ea nunc meditabor, quo Modo illi dicam, quom illo advenero:
Si dixero Mendacium, ſolens meo More fecero;
Nam quom illi pugnabant maxume, ego tum fugiebam maxume:
Verumtamen quaſi adſuerim ſimulabo, atque audita eloquar:
Set quo Modo, et Verbis quibus, me deceat fabularier,
Prius ipſe mecum etiam volo hic meditari: ſic hoc proloquar:
" Principio ut illo advenimus, ubi primum Terram tetigimus,
" Continuo *Amphitruo* delegit Viros primorum Principes;
" Eos legat *Telebois* (38), jubet Sententiam ut dicant ſuam,
" *Si ſine Vi et ſine Bello velint Rapta et Raptores tradere,*
" *Si quae adportaſſent redderent, ſe Exercitum extemplo Domum*
" *Reducturum, abituros Agro* Argivos (39), *Pacem atque Ocium*

" *Dare*

---

37. *Moſt Editions have* Rempublicam *in one Word: but the firſt Edition has* Rem publicam *in two Words, as they ought to be.* Res publica *here is* Negotium publicum, *with which he was intruſted in the Wars, and* Reſpublica *is the incorporated Society the* Commonwealth.

38. *The* Taphians *and* Teleboans *were Inhabitants of the Iſles of* Taphias, Capreæ, *and other adjacent Iſlands, and they lived by Plunder and Rapine: they were ſo called from* Teleboas *and* Taphius, *who were called Sons of* Neptune, *as were all notorious Robbers and Murderers, whether Pyrates or Spoilers by Land.*

39. Diſſaldæus *is quoted on this Paſſage by* Boxhorn *and* Gronovius *in theſe Words:* " Argivos *dixit pro* " Thebanis, *quia ſequebantur* Argivum *Ducem* Amphi-

" truonem."

before her: if I ſhou'd tell her a Ly, I ſhou'd but keep up to my Character; for, when they moſt ſtoutly fought, I moſt ſtoutly ran away: however, I'll counterfeit as if I had been in the Heat of the Battel, and tell her all that I hear'd about it: but I'll firſt conſider with myſelf here how I ought to behave, and what to ſay, when I tell her my Tale: I'll addreſs her thus: " as ſoon as we ar-
" riv'd there, when we firſt enter'd thoſe Territorys, *Am-*
" *phitryon* immediately pick'd out the principal Perſons
" of our Army, and ſent them on an Ambaſſy to the
" *Teleboans* (38), inſtructing them what Demands to
" make from him, *that, if without Compulſion, without*
" *War, they wou'd deliver up the Plunder and the Plun-*
" *derers, if they would reſtore what they carry'd off, he*
" *wou'd immediately make homeward with his Forces,*
" *and the* Argives *ſhou'd retreat to their own Country,*
" *and he wou'd leave them in Peace and Quiet, but if*

 " *they*

" truonem:" " *he, that is* Plautus, *uſed the Word*
" Argives *for* Thebans, *becauſe they followed* Amphi-
" tryon *their Leader, who was an* Argive." *This is a very injudicious Obſervation, and erroneouſly followed by theſe two learned Critics.* Argivos *is here uſed by* Plautus *as a general Word for* Greeks; *for theſe Perſons miſtake when they imagine that* Amphitryon's *Army was compoſed of* Thebans *only. We have an old* Greek *Poem (which has by ſome been aſcribed, but wrongfully, to* Heſiod) *extant, called* Ασπις Ηρακλεους *the* Shield of HERCULES, *which will ſufficiently clear this Point: the Poet deſcribes* Amphitryon's *Army as compoſed of ſeveral Parts of* Greece *beſides thoſe from* Bœotia, *of which* Thebes *was the capital Town. I ſhall give a Tranſlation of the Deſcription as near the Original as poſſible.* The

" *Dare illis, ſin aliter ſient animati, neque dent quae petat,*
" *Seſe igitur ſumma Vi Viriſque eorum Oppidum expugnaſſere.* (40)
" Haec ubi *Telebois* Ordine itera'runt, quos praefecerat
" *Amphitruo*, magnanimi Viri, freti Virtute, et Viribus
" Superbi, Minis ferociter Legatos noſtros increpant:
" Reſpondent, *Bello ſe et ſuos tutari poſſe, proinde uti*
" *Propere de Finibus ſuis Exercitum deducerent:*
" Haec ubi Legati pertulere, *Amphitruo* Caſtris ilico
" Producit omnem Exercitum: contra *Teleboae* ex Oppido
" Legiones educunt ſuas, nimis pulchris Armis praeditas.
" Poſtquam utrinque exitum 'ſt maxuma Copia,
" Diſpertiti Viri, diſpertiti Ordines,
" Nos noſtras, More noſtro (41) et Modo, inſtruximus
" Legiones, item Hoſtes contra Legiones ſuas inſtruunt.
" Deinde utrique Imperatores in Medium (42) exeunt
" Extra Turbam Ordinum; conloquuntur ſimul;
" Convenit, *victi utrique ſint eo Proelio,*
" *Urbem, Agrum, Aras, Focos, ſeque, uti dederent:*
" Poſtquam id actum 'ſt, Tubae utrinque canunt; contra
" Con-

The brave Bæotians *now ally their Arms,*
Whom the tumultuous Voice of Nations charms;
For War they pant, each ſkilful in the Field
To guide the Steed, and breathe above the Shield:
With theſe the valiant Sons of Locris *go,*
Intrepid Souls, who nearly face the Foe:
In the ſame Cauſe, beneath the ſame Command,
The Phocians *march'd, a mighty-minded Band:*
Of theſe, Alcæus,* *thy great Son was Head,*
A Leader glorying in the Hoſt he led.

*Amphitryon's Father.

" *they are otherwiſe diſpos'd, and refuſe to comply with* " *what is requir'd, he wou'd attack their Town with* " *all his Pow'r and Might.* When the Ambaſſadors " from *Amphitryon* had urg'd theſe Demands to the " *Teleboans*, the ſtubborn Men, relying on their own " Proweſs, and elated with their Strength, us'd our " Ambaſſadors roughly, and ſent them back with " Threats: their Anſwer was this, *that they were able* " *to defend themſelves and what they had by War, and* " *they wou'd therefore adviſe that our Army ſhou'd* " *ſpeedyly retreat from their Coaſts.* When the Am- " baſſadors brought this Anſwer back, *Amphitryon* " immediately marches all his Forces from their Tents: " the *Teleboans* likewiſe from the Town march their " Legions, all in reſplendent Arms. After the two " Armys had march'd up with their mighty Force, and " the Men were diſpos'd in their proper Stations ac- " cording to their Rank and Order, we diſpos'd our " Legions agreeable to our Manner and Skill, and on the " other Side likewiſe the Enemy drew up their Powers " according to their Cuſtom. Afterwards the two Gene- " rals left their Ranks, and met betwixt both Armys; " there they confer'd together; and this Condition " they agreed to, *that the conquer'd in that Engagement* " *ſhou'd deliver up their City, their Lands, their Gods,* " *their Houſes, and themſelves:* the Conference over,

40. Expugnaſſere *is the old Infinitive from the future Tenſe* expugnaſſo *for* expugnavero, *and is in the ſame Senſe with* expugnaturum eſſe. TURNEB.

41. *That* More et Modo *may not ſeem tautologous* Taubmannus *ſays that* noſtro Modo *is the ſame with* Arbitratu noſtro; *and indeed it will admit of that Conſtruction,* Modus *being ſomething more than* Mos; *for it is a* Mean, *a* Rule, *or* Moderation, *which to preſerve requires Judgement.*

42. Medium *is betwixt the two Armys.* Taubm.

" Conſonat Terra; Clamorem utrinque ecferunt:
" Imperator utrinque hinc et illinc *Jovi*
" Vota (43) ſuſcipere, hortari Exercitum:
" Pro ſe quiſque id, quod quiſque poteſt et valet,
" Edit; Ferro ferit; Tela frangunt; boat
" Coelum Fremitu Vir'um; ex Spiritu et Anhelitu
" Nebula conſtat; cadunt Volneris Vi et Virium.(44)
" Denique, ut voluimus, noſtra ſuperat Manus;
" Hoſtes crebri cadunt; noſtri contra ingruunt;
" Vicimus Vi feroces (45); ſet Fugam in ſe tamen
Nemo convortitur, (46)
" Nec recedit Loco, quin ſtatim Rem gerat:
" Animam amittunt (47) priuſquam Loco demigrent;
" Quiſque uti ſteterat jacet, obtinetque Ordinem:
" Hoc ubi *Amphitruo* Herus conſpicatus eſt meus,
" Ilico Equites jubet Dextera inruere: (48)
" Equites parent citi; ab Dextera maxumo
" Cum Clamore involant Impetu alacri;
" Foedant (49) et proterunt Hoſtium Copias Jure (50)
injuſtas. [*Seorſim.*

M E R.

Numquam etiam quicquam adhuc Verborum eſt
prolocutus perperam;
Namque ego fui illic in Re praeſenti, et meus, quom
pugnatu 'ſt, Pater. [*Seorſim.*

S O S.

---

43. Coepit *is underſtood here.*

44. Vi Virium *muſt be, I believe, the ſame with* Preſſura Virium, *that is* Vi, *or* Preſſura, Copiarum.

45. Vicimus Vi feroces *are in moſt Editions in a Verſe by themſelves: in the firſt Edition they are added to the preceding Verſe: but, without Example, I venture to place them thus: the preceding Verſe is an exact ſenarian as it now ſtands; and this is now a Tetrameter.*

46. Convortitur *is here uſed as* convortit. *not paſſively but actively, as* praefagitur *is, in the fourth Act of* Bacchides

" the Trumpets ſound on both Sides; the Earth echos;
" and the Shouts of both Armys ariſe: each General
" prefers his Prayers to *Jove*, and encourages his Men
" in ev'ry Part: each Man exerts himſelf to his utmoſt
" Power; the Sword deſcends, Lances break; the
" Welkin roars with the Clamour of the Soldiers; and
" a Cloud ariſes from the Breathings and Pantings of
" the Army; Numbers fall wounded and preſs'd to
" Death. At laſt, according to our Wiſhes, we prevail;
" faſt fall the Enemy; our Forces break in upon 'em;
" we made a Conqueſt with Might and Fierceneſs;
" and not one attempted to fly, or quit his Poſt, but
" ev'ry Man fought and maintain'd his Ground: they
" chuſe to dy rather than to ſtir a Step from the Place
" of Battel; and they fall where they ſtood, and keep
" their Ranks in their laſt Moments; when my Maſter
" *Amphitryon* ſaw this, he order'd a Party of Horſe to
" attack on the Right: the Horſe immediately exe-
" cute their Orders with great Outcrys and violent
" Swiftneſs: they beſmear, and trample on, the im-
" pious Foe as they deſerve. [*To himſelf.*

MER.

He has not yet ſay'd any Thing that's falſe; for I was there at the very Time, and my Father was in that Action too. [*To himſelf.*

SOS.

---

chides *as* praeſagit: *ſays* Chryſalus *there*, jam Animus iſtoc Dicto plus praeſagitur Mali.

47. Omittunt *is the general Reading; but* Douza *juſtly prefers* amittunt. *Our Author uſes* amittere, *by the Conſent of every Copy, towards the End of the ſecond Act of this Play; where* Amphitryon *ſays* iſtam Rem inquiſitam certum eſt non amittere.

48. *The common Reading is* inducere; *but I follow* Lambinus, *who prefers* inruere.

49. Foedant *is* dilacerant *and* cruentant. TAUB.

50. *That is* Jure Belli.

SOS.

" Perduelles penetrant ſe in Fugam; ibi noſtris Animus eſt additus:
" Vortentibus *Telebois*, Telis conplebantur Corpora;
" Ipſuſque *Amphitruo* Regem *Pterelam* ſua obtruncavit Manu:
" Haec illic eſt pugnata Pugna uſque a mane ad Veſperum;
(Hoc adeo hoc conmemini magis, quia illo Die inpranſus fui;)
" Set Praelium id tandem diremit Nox Interventu ſuo:
" Poſtridie in Caſtra ex Urbe ad nos veniunt flentes Principes;
" Velatis (51) Manibus orant ignoſcamus Peccatum ſuum;
" Deduntque ſe, divina humanaque omnia, Urbem, et Liberos,
" In Ditionem atque Arbitratum, cuncti, *Thebano* Poplo:
" Poſt, ob Virtutem, Hero *Amphitruoni* Patera donata aurea 'ſt,
" Qui *Pterela* (52) potitare Rex ſolitus eſt." Haec ſic dicam Herae.
Nunc pergam Heri Imperium exequi, et me Domum capeſſere. [*Seorſim.*

MER.

Attat illic huc iturus eſt: ibo ego illi obviam;
Neque ego hunc Hominem hodie ad Aedis has ſinam umquam adcedere:
Quando Imago eſt hujus in me, certum eſt Hominem eludere;
Et enimvero, quoniam Formam cepi hujus in me, et Statum, (53)

Decet

51. *Not only the Heads of ſuch Perſons as ſued for Peace or Mercy were covered, but their Hands were bound likewiſe: ſo* Virgil, *Æneid. Lib.* 2.

Praeferimus Manibus Vittas et Verba precantum.

52. Pterelaus, *or* Pterelas, *is the Name:* Pterela *is more*

SOS.

" The Remainder of their Army fled; which added " to our Courage: the *Teleboans*, in their Flight, had " their Bodys fill'd with Darts; *Amphitryon* cut off " King *Pterelas*'s Head with his own Hand: the Battel " continued from Morning till Evening;" (I have the greater Cauſe to remember it, for I had no Dinner that Day;) " but Night at laſt put an End to that " Engagement: the next Day came the Heads of the " City in Tears to us in the Camp: with their Hands " (51) cover'd they intreated our Pardon for their " Offence; they all give themſelves up, ev'ry Thing " human and divine, their Town, and their Children, " to the Poſſeſſion and Diſpoſal of the *Thebans*: af- " terwards, to my Maſter *Amphitryon* was preſented, " as the Reward of his Valour, the golden Cup in " which King *Pterelas* (52) uſed to drink." Thus will I relate theſe Affairs to my Miſtreſs. I'll now get myſelf within Doors, and obey the Commands of my Maſter. [*To himſelf.*

MER.

So, ſo, he's coming forwards: I'll meet him; nor will I ſuffer this Fellow to enter this Houſe to-day: ſince I have taken his Likeneſs upon me, I am reſolv'd to play him off; and, as I have aſſum'd his Form, and Garb, I ought likewiſe to take up a Similitude of Actions

more properly the Latin Termination according to Priſcian. GRONOV.

53. *Some Interpreters make* Statum *the ſame here with* Staturam: *but* Status, *as the learned* Donatus *obſerves, has Relation to the Habit.*

Decet et Facta Moresque hujus habere me similes item:
Itaque me malum esse oportet, callidum, astutum admodum,
Atque hunc, Telo suo sibi, Malitia (54) a Foribus pellere:
Set quid illuc est? Coelum adspectat: observabo quam Rem agat. [*Seorsim.*

SOS.

Certe, edepol, scio, si aliud quicquam est quod credam aut certo sciam,
Credo ego hac Noctu Nocturnum (55) obdormivisse ebrium;
Nam neque se Septemtriones quoquam in Coelo conmovent;
Neque se Luna quoquam mutat atque uti exorta est semel;
Nec Jugulae, (56) neque Vesperugo, neque Vergiliae, occidunt:
Ita statim stant Signa; neque Nox quoquam concedit Diei: (57)

[*Seorsim.*

MER.

Perge, Nox, ut occepisti: gere Patri Morem meo:
Optumo optume optumam Operam das, datam pulchre locas. [*Seorsim.*

SOS.

Neque ego hac Nocte longiorem me vidisse censeo,
Nisi item unam, verberatus quam pependi (58) perpetem;

Eam

---

54. Malitia, *says* CICERO, est virsuta et fallax nocendi Ratio, a crafty and deceitful Method of injuring.

55. Nocturnus, *says* Douza, *is* Vesperus: *in short,* Plautus *intended a Prosopopœia here for the Evening.*

56. Jugula *is the same with* Orion, *so called because he*

tions and Manners: therefore I ought to be a ſly cunning Varlet at preſent, and to fight him at his own Weapons, and ſo drive him by (54) Craft from the Door: but what's the Matter now? He's ſtaring at the Heavens: I'll watch his Motions. [*To himſelf.*

SOS.

By *Pollux*, I believe and am certain, if any one can believe and be certain of any Thing, that *Night* went this *Night* to Bed drunk; for the ſeven Stars are juſt where they were in the Heavens without any Motion; nor has the Moon ſtir'd once ſince ſhe roſe; and *Orion*, the Evening-ſtar, and the Pleïades, are not ſet yet: the Signs ſtand ſtill; and Night gives no Room for Day. [*To himſelf.*

MER.

Proceed, Night, as you have begun: humour my Father's Diſpoſition: you do the beſt Office in the beſt Manner for the beſt of Gods, and you'll be well rewarded. [*Aſide.*

SOS.

I think I never ſaw a longer Night than this, excepting that in which I was drub'd and then hang'd (58) up by the Heels; for that indeed was much longer than this.

---

he is larger than the Reſt, quaſi Nux Juglandis. Fest.

57. Die *is the common Reading:* Diei *is in the firſt Edition; which I doubt not being the right Reading.*

58. *It was a Cuſtom among the Antients to hang up their Slaves often by the Legs, or Hands, for a great Offence.*

Eam quoque, edepol, etiam multo haec vicit (59) Longitudine.
Credo, edepol, equidem dormire Solem, atque adpotum probe;
Mira sunt, nisi invitavit sese in Coena plusculum. (60)
[*Seorsim.*

MER.

Ai'n' vero Verbero? Deos esse tui similis putas?
Ego, pol, te istis tuis pro Dictis et Malefactis, Furcifer,
Accipiam: modo sis veni huc, invenies Infortunium.
[*Seorsim.*

SOS.

Ubi sunt isti Scortatores qui soli inviti cubant?
Haec Nox scita 'st exercendo Scorto conducto male.
[*Seorsim.*

MER.

Meus Pater nunc pro hujus Verbis recte et sapienter facit,
Qui, complexus cum *Alcumena*, cubat amans, Animo obsequens.
[*Seorsim.*

SOS.

Ibo, ut Herus quod imperavit *Alcumenae* nuntiem:
[*Seorsim.*
Set quis hic est Homo, quem ante Aedis video hoc Noctis? Non placet.
[*Videns* MERCURIUM.

MER.

Nullus est hoc meticulosus aeque.
[*Seorsim.*

SOS.

Quem? In Mentem venit,
Illic

---

59. Douza *proposes* vincit; *but that gives a Sense contrary to what is sayed in the two preceding Verses: instead of* eam *in this Verse I would read* hanc, *and for* haec *I would give* ea: *that is certainly the Meaning; and*

this. By *Pollux*, I verily believe the Sun's asleep, and has tippled a little too much; and that's surprising, unless he indulg'd a little more than ordinary at Supper. (60) *To himself.*

MER.

Say you so, you Slave? Do you think that the Gods are like yourself? By *Pollux*, you Hang-dog, I'll take you to Task for your scandalous Words and Deeds: only come forward, and you shall have your Reward. [*To himself.*

SOS.

Where are those Whoremasters now who are unwilling to ly alone? This is a fine Night for 'em to have their Pen'worths out of a Harlot. [*To himself.*

MER.

What he says now is very applicable to my Father, who, in the Arms of *Alcmena*, lys indulging his Heart's Desire. [*To himself.*

SOS.

I'll go, that I may deliver my Master's Message to *Alcmena*: [*To himself.*] but what Man's this, that I see before the Door at this Time of Night? It does not please me. [*Seeing* MERCURY.

MER.

This Fellow has not his equal for Cowardice. [*To himself.*

SOS.

Who can it be? Now I think of it, this is some Fel-

---

and in that Sense I have translated it.

60. *This Verse seems superfluous, and has no Joke in it;* Taubmannus *interprets* nisi invitavit *&c. in these Words,* nisi meracius, et plus æquo, bibit.

Illic Homo hoc denuo volt Pallium detexere (61)
[*Seorsim.*

MER.

Timet Homo: deludam ego illum. [*Seorsim.*

SOS.

Perii! Dentes pruriunt:
Certe advenientem me hic Hospitio Pugnae accepturus est.
Credo misericors est, nunc, propterea quod me meus Herus
Fecit ut vigilarem, hic Pugnis faciet hodie ut dormiam.
Oppido interii: obsecro, hercle, quantus et quam validus est!
[*Seorsim, spectans* Mercurium.

MER.

Clare advorsum fabulabor, hic auscultet quae loquar,
Igitur magis Modum in majorem in sese concipiet metum.
[*Seorsim.*
Agite Pugni; jam diu 'st quod Ventri Victum non datis:
Jampridem videtur factum, heri quod Homines quatuor
In Soporem conlocastis nudos.
[*Clare, simulans non videre* Sosiam.

SOS.

Formido male,
Ne ego hic Nomen meum conmutem, et Quintus (62) fiam e *Sosia:* Quatuor

---

61. Echard *translates this Speech thus:* now I think better on't, this may be some Rogue to steal my Cloak off my Back; *which is not translating* Plautus; *because our Author makes the Slave what we call arch in his Expression.* Mercury, *says* Douza, *puting himself in a Posture to buffet* Sosia, *throws his Arms about in such a Manner as the Weavers do when at Work; which makes* Sosia *say that he has an Intent to* weave, *or* make, *a Cloak.* Make *is the Cant for stealing among Persons of* Sosia's *Rank in* England; *and indeed it is grown into Use among People of a higher Condition here.* Douza gives

low that wants to make a Cloak. [*To himself.*

MER.

He's afraid: I'll play him off. [*To himself.*

SOS.

Undone! my Teeth chatter: he's certainly poſted here to give me a Reception with his Fiſt. I believe he has ſome Compaſſion about him, and, becauſe my Maſter has made me keep awake, he'll now beat me into a ſound Sleep. I'm in a pityful Condition: by *Hercules*, what a ſturdy ſwinging Rogue it is!

[*To himſelf, looking at* MERCURY.

MER.

I'll advance towards him and ſpeak a little louder, that he may hear me, and increaſe his Fears. [*To himſelf*] To Action, Fiſts, to Action; 'tis along Time ſince ye fed my Belly: it ſeems a tedious While ſince Yeſterday ye ſtrip'd four Men, and throw'd 'em into a profound Sleep. [*Aloud, pretending not to ſee* SOSIA.

SOS.

I'm terribly afraid that I ſhall add to my Name, and be *Soſia the Fifth*: he talks of four Men whom he

---

gives quom in Mentem venit; *but* Gronovius *gives it as I have here given it, and ſo pointed; which I doubt not being right:* quem? *briefly, thro Fear,* video *underſtood.*

62. Quintus *being a frequent Prænomen among the* Romans, *and Latin for the* fifth, *makes this a true Pun which our Poet puts into* Soſia's *Mouth: it can not be tranſlated with the ſame Force as in the* Original; *I was therefore obliged to vary the Expreſſion.* Autumat, *in the preceding Verſe, ſignifys that he talks to himſelf as if he was only thinking or ruminating.*

Quatuor Viros Sopori se dediſſe hic autumat:
Metuo ne Numerum augeam illum.
[*Seorſim.*

M E R.

Hem! nunc jam ergo; ſic colo. (63)
[*Clare.*

S O S.

Cingitur; certe expedit ſe.
[*Seorſim.*

M E R.

Non feret, quin vapulet.
[*Clare, oſtendens Pugnum.*

S O S.

Quis Homo?
[*Seorſim, auſcultans.*

M E R

Quiſquis Homo huc profecto venerit, Pugnos edet.
[*Clare.*

S O S.

Apage; non placet me hoc Noctis eſſe; coenavi modo:
Proin tu iſtam Coenam largire, ſi ſapis, eſurientibus.
[*Seorſim.*

M E R

Haut malum huic eſt Pondus Pugno.
[*Clare.*

S O S.

Perii: Pugnos ponderat.
[*Seorſim.*

M E R.

Quid ſi ego illum tractim tangam ut dormiat?
[*Clare.*

S O S.

Servaveris;
Nam continuas has tris Noctes pervigilavi.
[*Seorſim.*

M E R.

——Peſſumum 'ſt
Facinus: nequiter ferire Malam male diſcit Manus:

Alia

63. Lambinus *prefers* volo: colo *is more emphatical.*

throw'd into a profound Sleep: I'm afraid of being added to the Number. [*To himſelf.*

MER.

Hum! now I have him; thus I do the Bus'neſs. [*Aloud.*

SOS.

He's prepar'd; he certainly does it. [*To himſelf.*

MER.

He never ſtrikes, but he executes. [*Aloud, ſhewing his Fiſt.*

SOS.

Who is't that he's ſpeaking of? [*To himſelf, liſtening.*

MER.

Whoever comes this Way, he ſhall certainly eat my Fiſts. [*Aloud.*

SOS.

Away; I don't chuſe to eat at this Time of Night; I ſup'd but juſt now: beſides, beſtow that Supper, if you're wiſe, on thoſe who are hungry. [*To himſelf.*

MER.

This Fiſt is of no inconſiderable Weight. [*Aloud.*

SOS.

Undone: he's weighing his Fiſts for me. [*To himſelf.*

MER.

What if I handle him ſo as to lay him aſleep? [*Aloud.*

SOS.

You'll do me a Service; for I've been on the Watch theſe three Nights. [*To himſelf.*

MER.

—that is but a poor Deed: my Fiſt then has learn'd to ſtrike to little Purpoſe: he ought to be chang'd from

Alia Forma esse oportet quem tu Pugno legeris. (64)
[*Clare.*

SOS.

Illic Homo me interpolabit (65); meumque Os finget denuo.
[*Seorsim.*

MER.

Exossatum Os esse oportet, quem tu probe percusseris.
[*Clare.*

SOS.

Mirum nisi hic me quasi Muraenam exossare cogitat. Ultro (66), istunc qui exossat Homines: perii, si me aspexerit.
[*Seorsim.*

MER.

Olet Homo quidam Malo suo: —
[*Clare.*

SOS

Hei! numnam ego obolui?
[*Seorsim.*

MER

—Atque haut longe abesse oportet, (67) verum longe hinc abfuit.
[*Clare.*

SOS.

Illic Homo superstitiosus est!
[*Seorsim.*

MER.

---

64. *This is a figurative Expression, as* Turnebus *observes, taken from the Gathering of Grapes and other Fruits, and answers to a common Saying of our own,* I'll take such a Fellow in Hand.

65. Interpolare, *says* Nonius, est novam Formam e vetere fingere, *and is a Figure taken from the Fuller's Business*

66. Ultro *is here in the same sense with* procul, *as it is elsewhere so used by our Author.* Douza. Apage *is understood.*

67 *Madam* Dacier *divides this Speech here, and puts* verum longe hinc abfuit *into* Sosia's *Mouth; and Mr.* Echard

Head to Foot that you take in Hand. [*Aloud.*

SOS.

This Fellow will ſcower (65) my Hyde, and make a new Face for me. [*To himſelf.*

MER.

He that you ſtrike ought not to have a whole Bone left in his Skin. [*Aloud.*

SOS.

As ſure as can be he deſigns to bone me like a Lampray. I wiſh he was gone, he that bones Men: I'm a dead Man, if he ſees me. [*To himſelf.*

MER.

Somebody ſtinks here to his Ruin:— [*Aloud.*

SOS.

O! Lord! have I done any Thing unſavoury? [*To himſelf.*

MER.

—and 'tis impoſſible he ſhou'd be far off, tho he has been a long Way hence. [*Aloud.*

SOS.

This is a Conjurer! [*To himſelf.*

MER.

Echard *follows her in this Miſtake, as hē has the Misfortune to follow her in moſt of her Errors, both in* Plautus *and* Terence: *by which Diviſion the Beauty of the Speech is maimed: ſays* MERCURY, and 'tis impoſſible that he ſhou'd be far off, tho he has been a long Way hence: *upon which ſays* Soſia *to himſelf* this is a Conjurer. *This Miſtake of the learned French Lady aroſe from her not taking the Word* ſuperſtitioſus *right in the next Speech.* Superſtitioſus *is uſed for one having Skill in Vaticination, not, as we uſe the Word, for religious Fear.* Soſia *is ſurpriſed at* Mercury, *whoſe Godſhip he is ignorant of, knowing that he had been a long Way off.*

MER.

Geſtiunt Pugni mihi. [*Clare.*

SOS.

Si in me exercituus, quaeſo in Parietem ut primum domes. [*Seorſim.*

MER.

Vox mihi ad Aures advolavit. [*Clare.*

SOS.

Nae ego Homo infelix fui,
Qui non Alas intervelli, volucrem Vocem geſtito.
[*Seorſim.*

MER

Illic Homo a me ſibi malam Rem arceſſit Jumento (68) ſuo. 170
[*Clare.*

SOS.

Non equidem ullum habeo Jumentum. [*Seorſim.*

MER.

Onerandus eſt Pugnis probe.
[*Clare.*

SOS.

Laſſus ſum, hercle, e Navi ut vectus huc ſum; etiam nunc nauſeo;
Vix incedo inanis; ne ire poſſe cum Onere exiſtumes.
[*Seorſim.*

MER.

Certe enim hic, neſcio quis, loquitur. [*Clare.*

SOS.

Salvos ſum, non me videt. 174
Neſcio quem loqui autumat; mihi certo Nomen *Sosia'ſt.*
[*Seorſim.*

MER.

Hinc enim mihi Dextera Vox Auris, ut videtur, verberat. [*Clare.*

SOS.

68. Jumentum *is any Beaſt of Burden.*

MER.

My Fists are in Motion. [*Aloud.*

SOS.

If you are going to exercise them on me, I intreat you to tame them against the Wall first. [*To himself.*

MER.

A Voice flys to my Ears. [*Aloud.*

SOS.

Truly I'm very unhappy that I did not clip the Wings of my Voice, since it is a flying one. [*To himself.*

MER.

That Fellow requires me to lay a Burden on his Ass's Shoulders. [*Aloud.*

SOS.

In Troth I have no Ass. [*To himself.*

MER.

My Fists must lay a good Load on him. [*Aloud.*

SOS.

By *Hercules* I am so tir'd that I was brought hither from the Ship; and I am now so sick, that I can scarcely carry myself; therefore you can not think that I am able to carry a Burden. [*To himself.*

MER.

Somebody I'm sure, I know not who it can be, mutters here. [*Aloud.*

SOS.

I'm safe, he does not see me. I know not whom he imagines to be muttering; my Name, I'm sure, is *Sosia.* [*To himself.*

MER.

On the Right the Voice seems to strike my Ear. [*Aloud.*

SOS.

SOS.

Metuo Vocis ne Vice hodie hic vapulem, quae hunc verberat. [*Seorsim.*

MER

Optume eccum incedit ad me. [*Seorsim.*

SOS.

Timeo: totus torpeo:
Non, edepol, nunc ubi Terrarum sim scio, si quis roget;
Neque miser me commovere possum prae Formidine.
Ilicet, Mandata Heri perierunt una et *Sosia:*
Verum certu''st confidenter Hominem contra conloqui,
Igitur qui possim videri huic fortis, a me ut abstineat Manum. [*Seorsim, incedens ad Fores.*

MER.

Quo ambulas tu, qui Volcanum in Cornu conclusum geris?

SOS.

Quid id exquiris tu, qui Pugnis Os exossas Hominibus?

MER.

Servos esne an liber?

SOS.

Utcumque Animo conlibitum est meo.

MER.

Ai'n' vero?

SOS.

Aio enimvero.

MER.

Verbero.

SOS.

Mentiris nunc jam. (69) MER.

---

69. Verbero *is a Noun signifying* one that deserves to be beaten; *and it is likewise a Verb signifying* I beat: Mercury *must be here supposed to use it in the first Sense, and* Sosia, *for the Sake of playing on the Word, must take it*

SOS.

I'm afraid that he'll ſtrike me preſently, becauſe my Voice ſtrikes him. [*To himſelf.*

MER.

Good, he's coming towards me. [*To himſelf.*

SOS.

I am afraid: I am diſorder'd all over: by the Temple of *Pollux*, if any one ſhou'd aſk me what Part of the World I am in now, I cannot tell; nor alas am I able to move a Step, I'm ſo frighted. 'Tis all over with me, I've quite loſs'd my Maſter's Orders and myſelf too: but I'm reſolv'd to ſpeak with Courage to the Fellow, and to ſeem as brave as I can, that he may keep his Hands off.

[*To himſelf, going towards the Door.*

MER.

You, who carry Fire in your Horn, where are you going?

SOS.

You, who leave not a whole Bone in a Man's Skin, why do you aſk me?

MER.

Are you a Slave or a *Freeman?*

SOS.

I am which I will.

MER.

Say you ſo truly?

SOS.

I ſay ſo fairly and truly.

MER.

You Whipping-poſt,

SOS.

I am no Whipping-poſt. *MER.*

---

it in the other Senſe; and therefore he ſays mentiris nunc jam. *There is a plentyful Playing on Words in this Scene, and ſome very pleaſant, tho difficult to be preſerved in a Tranſlation with Juſtice to the Original.*

MER.

At jam faci[illegible] ut verum dicas dicere.

SOS.

Quid eo est Opus?

MER.

Possum scire quo profectus, cujus sis, aut quid veneris.

SOS.

Huc eo; Heri sum Servos: numquid nunc es certior?

MER.

Ego tibi istam hodie sceleſtam conprimam Linguam.

SOS.

Haut potes;
Bene pudiceque adservatur. (70)

MER.

Pergi'n' argutarier?
Quid aput hasce Aedis Negoti est tibi?

SOS.

Imo quid tibi 'st?

MER.

Rex *Creo* Vigiles nocturnos singulos semper locat.

SOS.

Bene facit; quia nos eramus peregre, tutatu' 'st Domum:
At nunc abi sane, adveniſſe Familiares dicito.

MER.

Neſcio quam tu familiaris sis; nisi actutum hinc abis,
Familiaris, accipiere faxo haut familiariter.

SOS.

---

70. Mercury *says* sceleſtam conprimam Linguam: conprimere *is to reſtrain, to repreſs, and likewiſe to ly with a Woman:* Mercury *uſes* conprimam *in the firſt Senſe; and* Sosia, *in his low Way, plays on the Word, and affects to take it in the obſcene Senſe; he therefore re-*

plys

MER.

But I'll ſoon make you acknowledge yourſelf to be one.

SOS.

What Occaſion for that?

MER.

I muſt know where you are going, to whom you belong, or what you come for.

SOS.

I'm coming here; and I'm my Maſter's Man: now what do you know the more from this?

MER.

I'll ſoon teach that ſaucy Tongue of thine good Manners.

SOS.

That's more than you can do; for it's keep'd very well within Bounds.

MER.

Do you preſume to prate? What Bus'neſs have you at this Houſe?

SOS.

What Bus'neſs have you here?

MER.

King *Creon* will have a Guard here ev'ry Night.

SOS.

He does well, to guard the Houſe while we are from Home; but pry'thee go in now, and tell 'em ſome of their fellow Servants are return'd.

MER.

I know not whoſe Fellow you are; but, unleſs you go from hence immediately, Fellow, I'll give you a Reception that you'll not take in good Fellowſhip.

---

plys that his Tongue bene pudiceque adſervatur: *and at the ſame Time he jokes with his Hunger, meaning that his Tongue was keep'd very clean from any Food.* Mercury *takes his Turn, and plays as much on the Word* Familiaris *a little lower.*

SOS.

Hic, inquam, habito ego; atque horum ſum Servos.

MER.

At ſci'n' quomodo?
Faciam ego hodie te ſuperbum (71) niſi hinc abis.

SOS.

Quonam Modo?

MER.

Auferere, non abibis, ſi ego Fuſtem ſumpſero.

SOS.

Quin me eſſe hujus Familiae Familiarem praedico.

MER.

Videſis, quam mox vapulare vis, niſi actutum hinc abis.

SOS.

[illegible]n' Domo prohibere peregre me advenientem poſtulas?

MER.

Haeccine tua Domus eſt?

SOS.

Ita inquam.

MER.

Quis Herus eſt igitur tibi?

SOS.

Amphitruo, qui nunc praefectus eſt *Thebanis* Legionibus,
Quicum nupta eſt *Alcumena*.

MER.

Quid ais? Quod Nomen tibi eſt?

SOS.

Soſiam vocant *Thebani*, *Davo* prognatum Patre.

MER.

---

71. Superbi videntur, *ſays* Taubmannus, qui Plagis ita ſunt contuſi, ut Pedibus ambulare nequeant, auferantur ſublimes neceſſe eſt. They appear *ſuperbi*, who are ſo beaten, as to be unable to walk on their Legs, and are under the Neceſſity of being lifted up and

SOS.

I say here I live, and here I am a Servant.

MER.

But do you know how you'll be serv'd? Unless you leave this Place I'll soon exalt you.

SOS.

How?

MER.

You shall be carry'd away, you sha'n't walk, if I take a Cudgel.

SOS.

Yet I affirm that I'm a Servant in this Family.

MER.

Take Notice, you shall be drub'd presently, unless you hurry away as fast as you can.

SOS.

Wou'd you drive me from Home after I'm just come off a Journey?

MER.

Is this your Home?

SOS.

It is I say.

MER.

Then who is your Master?

SOS.

Amphitryon, who is now Commander of the *Theban* Arms, the Husband of *Alcmena*.

MER.

What say you? What's your Name?

SOS.

At *Thebes* here I am call'd *Sosia*, the Son of *Davus*.

---

and carryed. *A Joke is here intended by* superbum, *which* Mercury *explains in his next Speech; and which I have endeavoured to preserve in my Translation. The Author of the marginal Notes in St.* John's *Copy says that* Mercury *jocosely threatens to kill him; and it will admit of that Sense.*

M E R.

Nae tu iſtic hodie Malo tuo compoſitis Mendaciis
Adveniſti, Audaciae Columen, conſutis Dolis.

S O S.

Immo equidem Tunicis conſutis huc advenio, non Dolis.

M E R.

At mentiris etiam; certo (72) Pedibus, non Tunicis, venis.

S O S.

Ita profecto.

M E R.

Nunc profecto vapula ob Mendacium.

S O S. [*Verberat illum.*

Non, edepol, volo profecto.

M E R.

At, pol, profecto ingratiis:
Hoc quidem profectoc ertu' it, non eſt arbitrarium.

[*Verberat illum rurſus.*

S O S.

Tuam Fidem obſecro.

M E R.

Tun' te audes *Seſiam* eſſe dicere,
Qui ego ſum?

S O S.

Perii.

M E R.

Parum etiam, praeut futurum eſt, praedicas.
Quojus nunc es?

S O S.

Tuus; nam Pugnis Uſu feciſti tuum.
Pro Fidem (73) *Thebani* Cives!

[Mercurius *iterum verberat illum.*

M E R.

---

72. *Here is a Conundrum that can not well be expreſſed in* Engliſh, *unleſs we may be allowed to uſe* with your Feet *in the ſame Senſe as* on your Feet.

73. Fidi

MER.

Thou Standard of Impudence, thou art really come here this Day to thy Misfortune, with thy made up Lys and patch'd up Fallacys.

SOS.

I come hither indeed with patch'd up Cloaths, but not Fallacys.

MER.

There you ly again; for you came with your Feet, not with your Cloaths.

SOS.

So I did truly.

MER.

Now truly take this Drubbing for that Ly.

SOS [*He beats him.*

By *Pollux*, not truly with my Consent.

MER.

But, by *Pollux*, take it truly whether you will or not: this indeed is truly certain, that 'tis not in your own Choice. [*He beats him again.*

SOS.

I beseech your Humanity.

MER.

Dare you affirm yourself to be *Sosia*, when I am he?

SOS.

I'm kill'd.

MER.

You cry out, but you've but a small Part of what's to come. Whose are you now?

SOS.

Your own; for you have purchas'd me with your Fists. For Heaven's Sake, ye Citizens of *Thebes!*

[Mercury *beats him again.*

73. Fidi *(the same with* Fidei*) is the common Reading:* Palmerius *and* Meursius *prefer* Fidem. *We often see* pro De'um atque Hominum Fidem!

MER.

Etiam clamas Carnufex?
Eloquere, quid veniſti?

SOS.

Ut eſſet quem tu Pugnis caederes.

MER.

Cujus es?

SOS.

Amphitruonis, inquam, *Soſia*.

MER.

Ergo iſtoc ma[illegible],
Quia vaniloquos, vapulabis. Ego ſum, non tu, *Soſia*.

SOS.

Ita Di faciant, ut tu potius ſis, atque ego te ut verberem. [*Seorſim*.

MER.

Etiam muttis?

SOS.

Jam tacebo.

MER.

Quis tibi Herus 'ſt?

SOS.

Quem tu voles.

MER.

Quid igitur? Qui nunc vocare?

SOS.

Nemo, niſi quem juſſeris.

MER.

Amphitruonis te eſſe ai'bas *Soſiam*.

SOS.

Peccaveram;
Nam *Amphitruonis* Socium (74) nae me eſſe volui dicere.

MER.

74. *This is a Pun in Pronounciation in* Latin, *becauſe of the Nearneſs of Sound in* Soſiam *and* Socium *in common*

MER.

Do you roar again Jailbird? Speak, what did you come for?

SOS.

That there might be ſomebody for you to exerciſe your Fiſts upon.

MER.

Whoſe are you?

SOS.

Soſia, Amphitryon's Servant, I ſay.

MER.

You ſhall have a little more Drubbing for that fooliſh Ly. I am *Soſia*, and you are not.

SOS.

I wiſh the Gods wou'd have it ſo, that I might maul you. [*To himſelf.*

MER.

Do you mutter too?

SOS.

I'm ſilent.

MER.

Who is your Maſter?

SOS.

Who you will.

MER.

What next? What's your Name now?

SOS.

I have no Name, unleſs you order me to have one.

MER.

You ſay'd you was *Amphitryon*'s Man *Soſia*.

SOS.

I made a miſtake; for I wou'd have ſay'd that I was ſociable (74) with *Amphitryon*.

MER.

---

mon Diſcourſe; but it can not be well rendered in Engliſh *with a Subſtantive.*

MER.

Sciebam equidem nullum esse nobis, nisi me, Servom *Sosiam.*

Fugit te Ratio.

SOS.

Utinam istuc Pugni fecissent (75) tui. [*Seorsim.*

MER.

Ego sum *Sosia* ille, quem tu dudum esse aiebas mihi.

SOS.

Obsecro per Pacem liceat te adloqui, ut ne vapulem.

MER.

Immo Induciae parumper fiant, si quid vis loqui.

SOS.

Non loquar nisi Pace facta, quando Pugnis plus vales.

MER.

Dicito, si quid vis, non nocebo.

SOS.

Tuae Fidei credo?

MER.

Meae.

SOS.

Quid si falles?

MER.

Tum *Mercurius Sosiae* iratus fiet.

SOS.

Animum advorte: nunc licet mihi libere quidvis loqui,
Amphitruonis ego sum Servos *Sosia.*

MER.

Etiam denuo?

SOS.

---

75. *I cannot much commend the Elegance of this Latin, however natural it may be in the Mouth of a Slave. By* utinam

MER.

I knew very well that there was no Servant of our Family nam'd *Sosia* but myself. You've no Reason about you.

SOS

I wish your Fists had not been about me.

[*To himself.*

MER.

I am that *Sosia* whom you pretended just now to be.

SOS.

Let us make a Peace I pray you, that I may speak to you without any Danger.

MER.

A Truce a While, if you have any Thing to say.

SOS

I'll not speak a Word till Peace is proclaim'd, since you are so much better arm'd with a Pair of Fists.

MER.

Speak, if you have any Thing to offer, I'll not hurt you.

SOS.

May I trust to your Honour?

MER.

You may.

SOS.

What, if you deceive me?

MER.

Then may the Wrath of *Mercury* descend on *Sosia*.

SOS.

Take Notice: now I have Liberty to speak freely, I am *Amphitryon*'s Servant *Sosia*.

MER.

What, again?

SOS.

---

utinam istuc Pugni fecissent tui, *as* Muretus *says*, Sosia *means* utinam me Pugni fugissent tui, sicuti me Rationem fugisse dicis.

SOS.

Pacem feci, Foedus feci, vera dico.

MER.

Vapula.

SOS.

Ut lubet, quod tibi lubet fac, quoniam Pugnis plus vales;
Verum, ut ut es facturus, hoc quidem, hercle, haut reticebo tamen.

MER.

Tu mihi vivos hodie numquam facies quin sim *Sosia*.

SOS.

Certe, edepol, tu me alienabis numquam quin noster siem;
Nec nobis praeter me alius quisquam est Servos *Sosia*,
Qui cum *Amphitruone* hinc una ieram in Exercitum.

MER.

Hic Homo sanus non est.

SOS.

Quod mihi praedicas Vitium, id tibi est [*Clare* Mercurio.
Quid Malum! Non sum ego Servos *Amphitruonis Sosia*?
Nonne hac Noctu nostra Navis huc ex Portu *Persico* (76)
Venit, quae me advexit? Nonne me huc Herus misit meus?
Nonne ego nunc hic sto ante Aedis nostras? Non mi est Laterna in Manu?
Non loquor? Non vigilo? Nonne hic Homo modo me Pugnis contudit?
Fecit hercle; nam mihi etiam misero nunc Malae dolent: [*Seorsim.*
Quid igitur ego dubito? Aut cur non introeo in nostram Domum?

MER.

76. Portus Persicus *is in the* Euboean *Sea, and was so.*

SOS.

I have made a Peace, agreed to the Conditions, and what I ſay is true.

MER.

Beware of a Beating.

SOS.

Do as you think fit, ſince you have the Aſcendant over me with your Fiſts; but, whatever you ſhall do, yet, by *Hercules*, I will not be ſilent on this Head.

MER.

While you live, you ſhall never make me any Thing but *Soſia*.

SOS.

Verily, by *Pollux*, you ſhall never transform me out of my Service here; nor is there any *Soſia* a Servant in our Family but myſelf, who went with *Amphitryon* from hence to the Army.

MER.

This Fellow's mad.

SOS.

The Misfortune which you reproach me with you labour under yourſelf. (*Aloud to* MERCURY.) What Miſchance is this! Am not I *Soſia*, *Amphitryon*'s Servant? Did not our Ship arrive here this Night, with me in it, from the *Perſian* (76) Port? Did not my Maſter ſend me hither? Don't I now ſtand here before our Door? Is not my Lanthorn in my Hand? Did not this Man belabour me juſt now with his Fiſts? He did by *Hercules*; for my Cheeks feel the Blows miſerably ſtill: (*To himſelf*) why therefore do I heſitate? Why don't I enter our Houſe?

MER.

ſo called from the Perſian *Fleet that rode there, not far from* Thebes. FEST.

MER.

Quid, Domum voſtram?

SOS.

Ita enimvero.

MER.

(77) Quaecumque dixiſti modo
Omnia ementitus: equidem *Soſia Amphitruonis* ſum;
Nam Noctu hac ſoluta eſt Navis noſtra e Portu *Perſico*;
Et, ubi *Pterela* Rex regnavit, Oppidum expugnavimus;
Et Legiones *Teleboarum* (78) Vi pugnando cepimus;
Et ipſus *Amphitruo* obtruncavit Regem *Pterelam* in Praelio.

SOS.

Egomet mihi non credo, quom illaec autumare illum audio:
Hic quidem certe quae illic ſunt Res geſtae memorat memoriter.

[*Seorſim.*

Set quid ais? Quid *Amphitruoni* a *Teleboîs* datum'ſt?

MER.

Pterela Rex qui potitare ſolitus eſt Patera aurea.

SOS.

Elocutus eſt. [*Seorſim.*] Ubi Patera nunc eſt?

MER.

In Ciſtula
Amphitruonis obſignata Signo eſt.

SOS.

Signi dic quid eſt?

MER.

Cum Quadrigis Sol exoriens. — Quid me captas Carnufex?

SOS.

---

77. *The common Reading is* quin quae dixiſti modo; *but I think* quaecumque *preferable; and ſo I find it in the*

MER.

What, your Houſe?

SOS.

Yes truly.

MER.

There is not a Word of Truth in all that you have ſay'd: I am *Soſia*, *Amphitryon*'s Man; for this Night our Ship left the *Perſian* Port; and we beſieg'd the Town where King *Pterelas* reign'd, and took the *Teleboans* (78) by Force of Arms; and *Amphitryon* himſelf cut off King *Pterelas*'s Head in Battel.

SOS.

I can't believe myſelf, when I hear him utter theſe Things: indeed he really relates theſe Affairs exactly as they were tranſacted. (*To himſelf.*) But what ſay you to this? What Preſent did the *Teleboans* make to *Amphitryon?*

MER.

The golden Cup in which King *Pterelas* us'd to drink.

SOS.

What he ſays is true. (*Aſide.*) Where's the Cup now?

MER.

'Tis in a Caſket ſeal'd with *Amphitryon*'s Seal.

SOS.

Tell me what the Seal is.

MER.

The Sun riſing in his Chariot.—What, are you on the Catch, you Villain?

---

the firſt Edition of our Author.

78. *See the* 38*th Note.*

SOS.

Argumentis vincit: aliud Nomen quaerendu' 'st mihi:
Neſcio unde haec hic ſpectavit. Jam ego hunc decipiam probe;
Nam quod egomet ſolus feci, nec quiſquam alius adfuit
In Tabernaculo, id quidem hodie numquam poterit dicere. [*Seorſim.*
Si tu *Soſia* es, Legiones quom pugnabant maxume,
Quid in Tabernaculo feciſti? Victus ſum, ſi dixeris.

MER.

Cadus erat Vini; inde implevi Hirneam; ——

SOS.

Ingreſſu' 'ſt Viam. [*Seorſim.*

MER.

Eam ego, (79) ut Matre natum fuerat, Vini eduxi meri.

SOS.

Mira ſunt, niſi latuit illic intus in illa Hirnea!
Factum eſt illud, ut ego illic Vini Hirneam ebiberim (80) meri. [*Seorſim.*

MER.

Quid nunc? Vincon' Argumentis te non eſſe *Soſiam*?

SOS.

Tu negas me eſſe?

MER.

Quid ego ni negem, qui egomet ſiem?

SOS.

Per *Jovem* juro me eſſe, neque me falſum dicere.

MER.

---

79. *The Explanation which* Lambinus *gives of this Paſſage is, I believe, erroneous: ſays he* eam Hirneam Vini meri, ita ut Matre fuerat natum, id eſt, ita ut ex Vite, ſeu Uva, fuerat expreſſum, eduxi, id eſt, ebibi, exhauſi, exſiccavi. *I am inclined to think that we have a vulgar*

SOS.

He has o'ercome me with Facts: I muſt look about me for another Name: I can't conceive how he ſaw all this. Now I ſhall catch him fairly; for what I did myſelf, when Nobody elſe was in the Tent, he can not poſſibly tell. (*To himſelf.*) If you are *Soſia*, what was you doing in the Tent, while both Armys were in the Heat of Battel? If you tell me that, I yield.

MER.

There was a Caſk of Wine; from which I fill'd a Cup, ——

SOS.

He has it exactly. [*Aſide.*

MER.

—and ſuck'd it down, all pure Wine, as if it had been Mother's Milk.

SOS.

O! wonderful, unleſs he was hid in the Cup! For 'tis certain that I there drink'd a Cup of all (80) Wine. [*To himſelf.*

MER.

What now? Have I convinc'd you that you are not *Soſia*?

SOS.

Do you deny it?

MER.

How can I do otherwiſe, when I am he?

SOS.

I ſwear by *Jupiter* that I am he, nor do I tell a Word of a Ly.

a vulgar Saying among us that is expreſſive of the Poet's Meaning of ut matre natum fuerat, *which is,* as if it was Mother's Milk.

80. *By* Vini meri *we muſt underſtand all Wine without any Mixture of Water, which the* Greeks *ſeldom drinked their Wine without.*

MER.

At ego per *Mercurium* juro tibi *Jovem* non credere;
Nam injurato scio plus credet mihi quam jurato tibi.

SOS.

Quis ego sum saltem, si non sum *Sosia*? Te interrogo.

MER.

Ubi ego *Sosia* jam nolim esse, tu esto sane *Sosia*:
Nunc quando ego sum, vapulabis ni hinc abis, ignobilis.

SOS.

Certe, edepol, quom illum contemplo, et Formam cognosco meam,
Quemadmodum ego saepe in Speculum inspexi, nimis simili' 'st mei:
Itidem habet Petasum, ac Vestitum: tam consimili' 'st atque ego!
Sura, Pes, Statura, Tonsus, Oculi, Nasum, Dens, Labra,
Malae, Mentum, Barba, Collum, totus! Quid Verbis Opu' 'st?
Si Tergum cicatricosum, Nihil hoc simili est similius!
Sed, quom cogito, equidem certo idem sum qui semper fui:
Novi Herum, novi Aedis nostras; sane sapio, et sentio:
Non ego illi obtempero quod loquitur; pultabo Foris.

[*Seorsim, iturus ad Fores.*

MER.

Quo agis te?

SOS.

Domum.

MER.

Quadrigas si nunc inscendas *Jovis*,
Atque hinc fugias, ita vix poteris effugere Infortunium.

SOS.

Nonne Herae meae nuntiare quod Herus meus jussit licet?

MER.

MER.

But I ſwear by *Mercury* that *Jupiter* does not believe you; for I know that he will credit me without an Oath ſooner than he will you with one.

SOS.

Who at leaſt am I, if I am not *Soſia?* I aſk you that.

MER.

When I have no Mind to be *Soſia* any longer, you may be *Soſia* indeed: but while I am he, you ſhall be drub'd you Scoundrel, unleſs you depart from hence.

SOS.

Verily, by the Temple of *Pollux*, when I view him well, I ſee my own Perſon, as it often appear'd to me when I look'd in the Glaſs, he is ſo very like me: he has the ſame Hat and Coat: he is the exact Reſemblance of me! The ſame Shanks, Feet, Stature, Baldpate, Eyes, Noſe, Teeth, Lips, Jaws, Chin, Beard, Neck, myſelf all over! What ſignifys talking? If his Back had ſome Scars upon it, Nothing cou'd be more like! But, when I conſider, I certainly know that I am the ſame that I always was: I know my Maſter, I know our Houſe; I have not loſs'd my Wits nor Senſes: I'll not mind what he ſays; I'll knock at the Door.

[*To himſelf, going towards the Door.*

MER.

Whether are you hurrying yourſelf?

SOS.

Home.

MER.

If you was now to mount the Car of *Jove*, and to fly from hence, you cou'd in that ſcarce fly from Deſtruction.

SOS.

May I not deliver a Meſſage, which my Maſter commanded me, to my Miſtreſs?

MER.

Tuae si quid vis nuntiare, hanc nostram adire non sinam;
Nam, si me irrita'ssis, Lumbifragium hinc auferes.

SOS.

Abeo potius.—Di inmortales, obsecro vostram Fidem,
Ubi ego perii? Ubi inmutatus sum? Ubi ego Formam perdidi?
An egomet me illic (81) reliqui, si (82) forte oblitus fui?
Nam hic quidem omnem Imaginem meam, quae antehac fuerat, possidet: 301
Vivo (83) fit, quod numquam quisquam mortuo faciet mihi.
Ibo ad Portum; atquae haec uti sunt Facta Hero dicam meo:
Nisi etiam is quoque me ignorabit, quod ille faciat, *Juppiter*,
Ut ego hic hodie raso Capite calvos capiam Pileum. (84)
[*Scorsim*] *Exit.*

---

81. *By* illic *we are to understand at Home.*

82. *Some Editions have* totius *here; but it is altogether unnecessary:* Gronovius *rejects it, as does Mr.* De L'Oeuvre *in his Edition* in Usum Delphini.

83. My Statue is erected while I am living, which will never be done when I am dead. *This is* Douza's *Construction:*

Scena II.

MERCURIUS.

Bene prospereque hoc hodie Operis processit mihi.
Amovi a Foribus maxumam Molestiam,
Patri ut liceret tuto illam amplexarier.

Jam

MER.

Deliver what Meſſage you will to *your* Miſtreſs, but I'll not admit you to this *my* Miſtreſs here; for, if you provoke me, you ſhall carry broken Bones from hence.

SOS.

I'll be going firſt — Good Gods, where, I beſeech ye, did I loſe myſelf? Where was I chang'd? Where did I part with my Form? Was I ſo forgetful as to leave myſelf at Home? For this Man has all the Reſemblance that I had before of myſelf? That is done for me while living, which Nobody will do for me when I am dead. I'll go back to the Port; and I'll tell my Maſter all that has happen'd here: but if he likewiſe knows me not, which I hope, O! *Jove*, he will not, I'll immediately cover my ſhav'd Head with the Cap of Freedom. (84) [*To himſelf*] *He goes.*

Conſtruction: and I doubt not but it is the Poet's Meaning, alluding to Mercury's *exact Likeneſs of* Soſia.

84. *When a Slave was made free, he had, after his Manumiſſion, his Head ſhaved, and a Cap put on it, in the Temple of* Feronia, *who was the Goddeſs of Freedmen.* Serv.

SCENE II.

MERCURY.

OUR Affair goes on very well here, and is attended with Succeſs. I have remov'd the greateſt Plague from the Door, that my Father may indulge himſelf ſecurely

Jam ille, illuc ad Herum quom *Amphitruonem* advenerit,
Narrabit Servom hinc sese a Foribus *Sosiam*
Amovisse: ille adeo illum mentiri sibi
Credet; neque credet huc profectum, ut jusserat.
Erroris (85) ambos ego illos et Dementiae
Conplebo, atque omnem *Amphitruonis* Familiam,
Adeo usque Satietatem dum capiet Pater
Illius quam amat; igitur tum demum omnes scient
Quae facta; denique *Alcumenam Juppiter*
Rediget antiquam Conjugis in Concordiam;
Nam *Amphitruo* actutum Uxori Turbas conciet,
Atque intimulabit eam Probri: tum meus Pater
Eam Seditionem in Tranquillum conferet.
Nunc de *Alcumena*, dudum quod dixi minus: (86)
Hodie illa pariet Filios, Geminos, duos;
Alter decumo post Mense nascetur Puer
Quam seminatus, alter Mense septumo:
Eorum *Amphitruonis* alter est, alter *Jovis*;
Verum minori Puero major est Pater, (87)
Minor majori: jamne hoc scitis quid fiet? (88)
Set, *Alcumenae* hujus Honoris Gratia,
Pater curavit uno ut Foetu fieret,
Uno ut Labore absolvat Aerumnas duas,
Et ne in Suspicione ponatur Stupri,
Et clandestina ut celetur Suspicio: (89)
Quamquam,

---

85. Conplebo *here governs a genitive Case after the Manner of the* Greeks, *as* La Rue *observes on the 215th Verse of the first Book of* Virgil's Æneis: *the Verse in* Virgil, *on which* La Rue *makes the Observation, is this,*

Implentur veteris Bacchi pinguisque Ferinæ.

86. Id est, quod vobis de ALCUMENA nondum etiam edissertavi: that is what I have not yet declared concerning ALCMENA. Douza. *Some think this Speech of* Mercury's *a Continuation of the Prologue: but it may as well be taken for a Soliloquy: whichever it is, it is unseasonable; because it informs us too much of what is to come.*

87. Major

ſecurely with her. Now that Fellow, when he comes to his Maſter *Amphitryon*, will tell him that his Servant *Soſia* forc'd him away from the Door: he'll think that he lys; nor will he believe that he has been here as he order'd him. I'll poſſeſs them too, and all *Amphitryon*'s Family, with Error and Confuſion, till my Father has had his Fill of that ſame which he loves ſo much; then at laſt they ſhall all know what has paſs'd; and *Jupiter* will bring *Alcmena* into her Huſband's Favour again; for *Amphitryon* will preſently raiſe a Diſturbance in his Wife's Mind, and accuſe her of Inconſtancy: then my Father will turn their Diſagreement into a State of Tranquillity. Now concerning *Alcmena*, of whom I have ſay'd but little yet: this Day ſhe ſhall bring forth two Sons, Twins; one ſhall be born ten Months after this Conception, the other ſeven: one is the Son of *Amphitryon*, the other of *Jupiter*; but the younger Son belongs to the greater Sire, the elder to the inferior Sire: now do ye know what all this means? But, for the Honour of this *Alcmena*, my Father has taken Care that they ſhall be both born together, that one painful Labour ſhall ſerve for both, and that ſhe may not ly under the Suſpicion of Inchaſtity, and that this clandeſtine Amour may be conceal'd: yet, as I ſay'd

---

87. Major Pater *is* Jupiter: *that is, the greater is Father to the younger Son, who is* Hercules; *and* minor *the inferior,* Amphitryon, *is Father to the elder, which is* Iphiclus.

88. Guietus *rejects this Verſe: and it is indeed ſuperfluous.*

89. *This laſt* Suſpicio *diſpleaſes the Critics, and juſtly; for it makes* Nonſenſe *of the Paſſage:* Conſuetudo *or* Conſuetio, *is what they propoſe; which gives it the Meaning in which I have tranſlated it: yet* Suſpicio *is the Word in all the Copys.*

Quamquam, ut jam dudum dixi, reſciſcet tamen
Amphitruo Rem omnem: quid igitur? Nemo id Probro
Profecto ducet *Alcumenae*; nam Deum
Non par videtur facere Delictum ſuum,
Summque Culpam, expetere in Mortalem ut ſinat.
Orationem comprimam: crepuit Foris:
Amphitruo ſubditivos, eccum, exit foras,
Cum *Alcumena* Uxore uſuraria.

SCENA III.

JUPITER, ALCUMENA, et MERCURIUS.

JUP.

BEne vale, *Alcumena*; cura Rem communem, quod facis;
Atque imperce, quaeſo: Menſes jam tibi exactos vides:
Mihi neceſſe eſt ire hinc; verum, quod erit natum, tollito (90).

ALC.

Quid iſtud eſt, mi Vir, Negoti, quod tu tam ſubito Domo
Abeas?

JUP.

Edepol, haut quod tui me, neque Domi, diſtaedeat;
Set,

90. *It was a Cuſtom among the Antients, as ſoon as a Child was born, to lay it on the Ground, from which the Father would take it up, and ſet it in his Lap; and the Child that was not ſo received by the Father was diſowned,*

say'd before, *Amphitryon* will know all: what then? Nobody will impute that as a Scandal to *Alcmena*; for it seems entirely unbecoming a God to commit an Offence, and then to suffer the Imputation of the Crime to fall on a Mortal. I must Stop here: the Door creaks; *Amphitryon*'s Repreſentative is coming out with *Alcmena*, a Wife which he has taken on Uſury.

SCENE III.

JUPITER, ALCMENA, and *MERCURY.*

JUP.

FArewel, *Alcmena*; whatever you do, take Care of what concerns us both; and don't fatigue yourſelf, I intreat you: you ſee you've gone your Time: I am under a Neceſſity to leave you; but, whatever you are brought to Bed with, bring it up. (90)

ALC.

What important Bus'neſs is it, my Lord, that calls you ſo ſoon away?

JUP.

By the Temple of *Pollux*, I am tir'd neither of you nor of my Home; but, when the Commander is not preſent

owned, expoſed, and caſt away. LAMBINUS. Jupiter, *to carry on his Diſguiſe, leaves it as his Will,* tollere, *to take the Child up, and educate it, as he acknowledges it to be his.*

Set, ubi ſummus Imperator non adeſt ad Exercitum, Citius, quod non facto 'ſt Uſus, ſit, quam quod facto 'ſt Opus.

MER.

Nimis hic ſcitus eſt Sycophanta, qui quidem meus ſit Pater:
Obſervatote quam blande Mulieri palpabitur. [*Seorſim.*

ALC.

Ecaſtor, Re (91) experior quanti facias Uxorem tuam.

JUP.

Sati'n'eſt, ſi Foeminarum nulla'ſt quam aeque diligam?

MER.

Edepol, nae, illa (92) ſi iſtis Rebus te ſciat Operam dare,
Ego faxim te *Amphitruonem* eſſe malis quam *Jovem*.

ALC. [*Seorſim.*

Experiri iſtuc mavellem me quam mi' memorarier:
Prius abis quam Lectus (93), ubi cubuiſti, concaluit Locus:
Here (94) veniſti media Nocte, nunc abis: hoccine placet?

MER.

---

91. *Some Editions have* te, *and among them the firſt: but* Guietus, De l' Oeuvre, *and* Gronovius, *give* Re; *which is much preferable to* te: *the Reproach is the ſtronger with* Re.

92. Meurſius *gives* furtivis *inſtead of* iſtis *here*; *but I follow the firſt printed Edition, and* Guietus, Gronovius, *and other judicious Critics, in this Reading.* Valens Acidalius *makes* illa *a Relative to* Alcumena; *and many have been miſled by his Conſtruction. Nothing can be plainer than the Poet's Meaning here, which is, if* JUNO *ſhould know how you practice thoſe Things, I'll engage that* you would rather be AMPHITRYON than JUPITER, *that is during the Time of her ſcolding, alluding to* Juno's *common Character of a jealous ſcolding Wife: and in this* Senſe

preſent with the Army, Affairs are more likely to go ill then well.

MER.

This Father of mine is an excellent Couſiner: obſerve how ſweetly he wheedles the poor Woman.
[*To himſelf.*

ALC.

By the Temple of *Caſtor*, I find, in Earneſt, how you prize your Wife.

JUP.

Is it not ſufficient, if I prefer you to all Womankind?

MER.

By the Temple of *Pollux*, if your Spouſe ſhou'd know how you practice thoſe Things, I'll engage that you wou'd rather be *Amphitryon* than *Jupiter*.

ALC. [*Aſide.*

I had rather experience that than have it ſay'd to me: you leave me before the Bed in which you lay was warm beneath you: you came but laſt Midnight, and now you go: is this obliging?

Senſe Mr. Michael Marolles *has tranſlated it:* tout de bon, *ſays he,* ſi JUNON ſçauoit *&c. and* De le Oeuvre *ſays* ſi JUNO cognoſcat. Mercury *repeats* Edepol *with a Sneer on* Jupiter *who had ſwore by the Temple of* Pollux *a little before; and* Alcmena *ſwears by the Temple of* Caſtor, *becauſe he ſwore by the Temple of* Pollux.

93. *The common Declenſion of* Lectus *gives* Lecti *in the genitive Caſe; but* Lectus *is here the ſecond Caſe: the Conſtruction is this,* Locus Lectus, *or* Locus Lecti, ubi cubuiſti, vix concaluit, priuſquam abis: *which is a fine Character of her Gallant, who had been ſo long in Bed with her; and yet ſhe thought the Time very ſhort.*

94. Here *is the ſame with* heri: *the Word is* heri *in the firſt Edition.*

MER.

Accedam; atque hanc appellabo; et ſubparaſitabor Patri. [*Seorſim.*

Numquam, edepol, quemquam mortalem credo ego Uxorem ſuam

Sic efflictim amare, proinde ut hic te efflictim deperit. [*Alcumenae.*

JUP.

Carnufex, non ego te novi? Abi'n' e Conſpectu meo? 20

Quid tibi hanc Curatio eſt Rem, Verbero, aut Muttitio? (95)

Quem lego jam hoc Scipione. (96)

MER.

Ah! noli.

JUP.

Muttito modo.

MER.

Nequiter pene expedivit prima Paraſitatio. [*Seorſim.*

JUP.

Verum quod tu dicis, mea Uxor, non te mihi iraſci decet:

Clanculum

---

95. *The firſt printed Edition of our Author has the Interrogation after* Verbero; *and the Word is* mutito *at the End of the Verſe; but* Guietus *and* Gronovius *give it as I have writ it. The Interpretation of* Muttitio *in* Gronovius's *Index is,* qui tantum mu dicit; *and Reference is there made to this Paſſage; but that can not be the Meaning with* aut *before it: the Conſtruction muſt be as I have made it in my Tranſlation.* Quid *is* why *here, inſtead of a relative Pronoun as* quis.

96. *The firſt Edition has* quo lego jam hoc Scipione: Guietus, *and after him* Marolles, *have* quoi ego jam hoc Scipione frangam: Gronovius *gives* quoi ego jam hoc

MER.

I'll go, and ſpeak to her, and compliment her like my Father. [*To himſelf.*] By *Pollux*, I do'nt believe that ever any Mortal ſo deſperately lov'd his Wife as he does you, or that ever any one was ſo deſperately fond as he is. [*To Alcmena.*

JUP.

You Hang-dog, don't I know you? Will you get from my Sight or not? What Bus'neſs have you with this Affair, or why this Muttering? I ſhall uſe my Cudgel preſently.

MER.

Ah! pray don't.

JUP.

Mutter, do.

MER.

My firſt Addreſs has ſucceeded but ill. [*To himſelf.*

JUP.

You ought not, Spouſe, to be angry with me for what you was ſpeaking of: coming ſecretly from the

---

hoc Scipione, *and* CAMERARIUS quem pol ego jam Scipione. *I follow* Camerarius *in* quem, *as preferable to* quoi *or* quo, *and keep in* lego *according to the firſt printed Exemplar. Our Poet uſes the ſame Verb before in the Senſe of* percutio: quem tu Pugno legeris. *Sc.* 1. *V.* 159. *The Etymologiſts derive* Scipio, *a Cudgel or Walking-ſtaff, from the Greek* σκηπτω *I lean upon; but the Derivation is not natural: if the Greek Verb was* σκιπτω *it might do. I muſt offer a Conjecture of my own, and leave it to the Mercy of the Critics: might not* Scipio *be firſt metaphorically uſed for a Cudgel in Compliment to one of the Conquerors of that Name?*

Clanculum abiens (97) a Legione, Operam hanc ſubripui tibi,
Ex me primo prima ut (98) ſcires Rem ut geſſiſſem publicam:
Ea tibi omnia enarravi: niſi te amarem plurimum,
Non facerem.

MER

Facitne (99) ut dixi? Timidam Palpo percutit. [*Seorſim.*

JUP.

Nunc, ne Legio perſentiſcat, clam illuc redeundum 'ſt mihi,
Ne me Uxorem praevortiſſe (100) dicant prae Re publica.

ALC.

Lacrumantem ex Abitu concinnas (101) tu tuam Uxorem.

JUP.

Tace:
Ne conrumpe Oculos; redibo actutum.

ALC.

Id actutum diu 'ſt.

JUP.

Non ego te hic lubens relinquo, neque abeo abs te.

ALC.

Sentio;
Nam qua Nocte ad me veniſti eadem abis.

JUP.

Cur me tenes?

Tempu'

---

97. *Moſt Editions have* clanculum abivi, *and ſome have* huc *after* clanculum: Marolles, *who publiſhed his* Latin *Edition according to the Exemplar of* Guietus, *has* abiens; *which I think preferable.*

98. *All the Editions which I have ſeen are without* ut *here; but the Language is impure without it: our Poet in other Places uſes it in the ſame Manner, as in* Truculentus, *a Maid-ſervant ſpeaking to a Gallant of his Miſtreſs,* Celabat,

Army, I haſten'd to you as faſt as I cou'd, that you might be the firſt to whom I firſt related how I have conducted the public Affairs: I have told you all: did not I dearly love you, I cou'd not have done this.

MER.

Is it not (99) as I ſay'd? His Wheedling removes her Fear. [*To himſelf.*

JUP.

My Return to the Camp muſt now be in Secret, leſt the Army ſhou'd perceive it, and ſay that I prefer'd my Wife's Company to the public Good.

ALC.

By your Departure you make a weeping Wife.

JUP.

Say no more: don't ſpoil your Eyes; I'll return ſoon.

ALC.

That ſoon will be late.

JUP.

I leave you here, and go from you, unwillingly.

ALC.

I perceive it; for you go from me the ſame Night you came to me.

JUP.

Why do you hold me? 'Tis Time: I wou'd leave

Celabat, metuebatque, te, ut ne ſibi perſuaderes
Ut Abortioni Operam daret, Puerumque ut enecaret.

99. *That his Father is an excellent Couſiner.*

100. Praevortiſſe *has the ſame Meaning here with* praeponuiſſe. BOXHORN.

101. Nonius, *on* concinnem *in the 2d Sc. of the 1ſt Act of* Rudens, *interprets it by* conficiam.

Tempu' 'ſt: exire ex Urbe, priuſquam luciſcat, volo.
Nunc tibi hanc Pateram, quae Dono mi' illic ob Virtutem data 'ſt,
Pterela Rex qui potavit, quem ego mea occidi Manu,
Alcumena, tibi condono.

ALC.

Facis ut alias Res ſoles.
Ecaſtor, condignum Donum, quale 'ſt (102) qui Donum dedit.

MER.

Immo ſic condignum Donum, quale 'ſt quoi Dono datum 'ſt.

JUP.

Pergi' n' autem? Nonne ego poſſum, Furcifer, te perdere?

ALC.

Noli, amabo, *Amphitruo*, iraſci *Soſiae* Cauſa mea.

JUP.

Faciam ita ut vis.

MER.

Ex Amore hic admodum quam ſaevos eſt!
[*Seorſim.*

JUP.

Num quid vis? [*Alcumenae.*

ALC.

Ut, quom abſim, me ames, me tuam, te abſente, (103) Tamen.

MER.

Eamus, *Amphitruo*; luciſcit hoc jam.

JUP.

Abi prae, *Soſia*:
Jam ego ſequar. [*Exit* MERCURIUS.

SCENA IV.

---

102. *The common Reading in this and the next Verſe is* quali' 'it, *that is* qualis eſt: Camerarius *chuſes* quale eſt; *which is right; for it is* Donum quale eſt.

103. *The*

the City before 'tis Day. I now, *Alcmena*, preſent this Cup to you, which was giv'n me as a Reward for my Valour there, the ſame which King *Pterelas*, whom I ſlew with my own Hand, drink'd in.

ALC.

This is doing as you always do. By the Temple of *Caſtor*, a moſt valuable Gift, and worthy him who gave it.

MER.

A moſt valuable Gift indeed, and worthy her who has it.

JUP.

Will you be ſo forward? Can't I drub you out of it, you Raſcal?

ALC.

I beſeech you, *Amphitryon*, not to be angry with *Soſia* for my Sake.

JUP.

You ſhall be obey'd.

MER.

How churliſh he is after his Wenching! [*To himſelf.*

JUP.

Have you any farther Requeſt? [*To Alcmena.*

ALC.

That when I'm abſent you will love me ſtill, that, tho you are not with me, you will ſtill think of me as your own.

MER.

Let's be going, *Amphitryon*; it's almoſt Day.

JUP.

Go you before, *Soſia*: I'll follow preſently.

[*Mercury* goes.

SCENE IV.

---

103. *The common Reading is* me tuam me abſentem: *I find* te abſente *in the firſt printed Copy; which I think preferable, as it gives a Variety to the Language, and is more emphatical.*

Scena IV.

Jupiter et *Alcumena.*

Jup.

NUM quid vis?

Alc.

Etiam, ut actutum advenias.

Jup.

Licet:
Prius tua Opinione hic adero: bonum Animum habe.
[*Exit* Alcumena.

Scena V.

Jupiter.

NUNC te, Nox, quae me manſiſti, mitto, ut cedas Diei, (104)
Ut mortalibus inluciſcat (105) Luce clara et candida:
Atque quanto, Nox, fuiſti longior hac proxuma, (106)
Tanto brevior Dies ut fiat faciam, ut aeque diſparet,
Et Dies e Nocte accedat. Ibo, et *Mercurium* ſubſequar.

---

104. Die *is the common Reading. The firſt Edition has* Diei.

105. *All the Copys which I have ſeen have* inluciſcas: *but, notwithſtanding the Silence of all the Critics on our Poet,*

Finis Actus primi.

SCENE IV.

JUPITER and *ALCMENA.*

JUP.

HAVE you any farther Requeſt?

ALC.

Yes, that you will quickly return.

JUP.

I will: I'll be here with your Wiſhes: be cheerful.

[*Alcmena* goes.

SCENE V.

JUPITER.

NOW, Night, who haſt waited ſo long on me, I diſmiſs thee, that thou may'ſt give Place to Day, that he may riſe on Mortals with a clear unclouded Light: and, Night, by ſo much as thou haſt been longer than this to come, by ſo much will I make this Day the ſhorter, that he may make it proportionable, and Day ſhall then regularly follow Night.——I'll now go after *Mercury.*

Poet, it can not be the true Reading: the Meaning is ut Dies inluciſcat &c. *With what Propriety can it be ſayed of Night?*

106. *By* longior hac proxuma *the Poet muſt mean* than the Night to come.

The End of the firſt Act.

Actus II. Scena I.

AMPHITRUO et *SOSIA.*

A M.

AGE, i tu ſecundum. (107)

S O S.

Sequor, ſubſequor, te.

A M.

Sceleſtiſſimum te arbitror.

S O S.

Nam quamobrem?

A M.

Quia id quod neque eſt, neque fuit, neque futurum eſt, Mihi praedicas.

S O S.

Ecce Rem: jam tu autem (108)
Facis ut tuis nulla aput te ſit Fides.

A M.

Quid eſt? Quo Modo? Jam quidem, hercle, ego tibi iſtam
Sceleſtam, Scelus, Linguam abſcindam.

S O S.

Tuus ſum;
Proinde ut commodum ſiet (109), et lubet, quidque facias;
Tamen,

---

107. *That is* poſt me *ſays* Lambinus. *The common Reading is* ſecundum: *the firſt Edition has* i tu ſecundus.

108. *The common Reading is* eccere jam tuatim: *and* J. Gulelmius *interprets it thus,* tuo More, ita ut facere conſueſti:

Act II. Scene I.

AMPHITRYON and *SOSIA.*

A M.

COME, follow me.

S O S.

I'm after you, I'm close behind you.

A M.

You are, I think, the most abandon'd Rascal.

S O S.

Why so?

A M.

Because you tell me that which is not, never was, nor ever can be.

S O S.

Do but see: you behave now as if you plac'd no Confidence in your Servants.

A M.

What? How's that? By *Hercules* I'll cut out that villainous Tongue of thine, thou Villain.

S O S.

I am your Slave; and therefore you may do to me what best suits your Conveniency and Will; Yet, as I relate

---

consuesti: *but I follow the first printed Copy; and* Gronovius *gives* tu autem *in the Margin from a manuscript Copy.*

109. *The common Reading is* est: *the first Edition has* siet.

Tamen, quin loquar haec uti facta ſunt hic,
Numquam ullo Modo me potes deterrere.

A M.

Sceleſtiſſime, audes mihi praedicare id,
Domi te eſſe nunc, qui hic ades?

S O S.

Vera dico.

A M.

Malum! quod tibi Di' dabunt, atque ego hodie dabo.

S O S.

Iſtuc tibi eſt in Manu; nam tuus ſum.

A M.

Tun' me, Verbero, audes Herum ludificari?
Tun' id dicere audes, quod Nemo umquam Homo antehac
Vidit, nec poteſt fieri, Tempore uno,
Homo idem duobus Locis ut ſimul ſit?

S O S.

Profecto, ut loquor, ita Res eſt.

A M.

Juppiter te perdat.

S O S.

Quid mali ſum, Here, tua ex Re promeritus?

A M.

Rogaſne, improbe, etiam, qui ludificas me?

S O S.

Merito maledicas mihi, niſi id ita Factum eſt: (110)
Verum haut mentior; Reſque uti facta dico.

A M.

Homo hic ebrius eſt, ut opinor.

S O S.

Utinam ita eſſem.

A M.

---

110. Guietus, Gronovius, *and other learned Editors, give* ſi id ita factum eſt, *and interpret it thus*, nempe, ut

I relate these Things as they really happen'd here, you can not by any Means make me recant.

A M.

You Villain, dare you affirm to me that you are at Home and here at this very Time?

S O S.

What I say is true.

A M.

A Plague on you! But the Gods will inflict one on you, and so will I soon.

S O S.

That's in your Pow'r; for I am your own.

A M.

You Rascal, dare you impose on me your Master? Dare you affirm that which Nobody ever yet did see, or can see, that the same Person can be in two Places at one Time?

S O S.

Indeed the Fact is just as I tell it you.

A M.

Jove confound you.

S O S.

What ill, Sir, have I deserv'd from you?

A M.

Do you ask me that, you Villain, who make me your Sport?

S O S.

I deserve your Displeasure, if the Case is not as I tell you: I have not utter'd one Word of a Ly; but I have told you plain Matter of Fact.

A M.

The Fellow's drunk I think.

S O S.

Wou'd I was.

ut te ludificaverim; *but I follow* Acidalius, *who rightly says*, nisi id ita Factum est, scil. ut tibi narravi.

A M.

Optas quae facta.

S O S.

Egone?

A M.

Tu iſtic. Ubi bibiſti?

S O S.

Nuſquam equidem bibi.

A M.

Quid hoc ſit Hominis?

S O S.

Equidem decies dixi tibi (111). Domi ego ſum, inquam:
Ecquid audis? Et aput te adſum *Soſia* idem: ſati' n' hoc plane,
Sati' n' diſerte, Here, nunc videor tibi locutus eſſe?

A M.

Vah! apage te a me.

S O S.

Quid eſt Negoti?

A M.

Peſtis te tenet. (112)

S O S.

Nam cur iſtuc dicis?
Equidem valeo, et ſalvos ſum recte, *Amphitruo.*

A M.

At te ego faciam hodie, proinde ac meritus es,
Ut minus valeas, et miſer ſis,
Salvos Domum ſi rediero. Jam
Sequere ſis, Herum qui ludificas Dictis delirantibus;
Qui, quoniam Herus quod imperavit neclexiſti perſequi,
Nunc venis etiam ultro inriſum Dominum: quae neque fieri
Poſſunt,

111. *Many Editions are without* tibi: Gulielius *and* Marolles *have it.* Gronovius *and ſome other Editors make five Verſes and Part of a ſixth of this Speech: but there is no Scale for their Meaſure: they are not ſo divided in*

A M.

You have your Wiſh.

S O S.

Who I?

A M.

Yes, you. Where have you been drinking?

S O S.

Indeed I've been drinking nowhere.

A M.

What Sort of a Man may this be?

S O S.

I have told you ten Times already. I ſay that I am at Home: do you hear me? And I, the ſame *Soſia*, am now with you here: do I ſeem to ſpeak plain enough to you, Sir, expreſsly enough now, to the Purpoſe?

A M.

Avaunt! Away from me.

S O S.

What's to do now?

A M.

You are poſſeſs'd.

S O S.

Why do you ſay ſo? Indeed I am very well, *Amphitryon*, and not in the leaſt diſorder'd.

A M.

But I'll ſoon make you worſe, and miſerable, as you deſerve, if I once enter my Doors ſecurely. Follow me now, you who abuſe your Maſter with frantic Reports; who, becauſe you neglected to obey his Orders, are now come to make him your Sport: you tell ſuch

---

in the firſt Edition. I follow no Copy in this Diviſion, but have made three Tetrameters of them.

112. Guietus *gives* Peſtis te mala tenet. Mala *is tautologous, and is not in the firſt Edition, nor in* Gronovius's, *nor in Mr.* De le Oeuvre's.

Possunt, neque fando umquam accepit quisquam, profers Carnufex ;
Quojus ego hodie in Tergo faxo ista expetant Mendacia.

SOS.

Amphitruo, miserrima istaec Miseria est Servo bono,
Aput Herum qui vere (113) loquitur, si id Vi Verum vincitur.

AM.

Quo id, Malum, Pacto potest, nam me cum Argumentis puta,
Fieri : nunc uti tu hic sis et Domi, id dici volo.

SOS.

Sum profecto et hic et illic : hoc cuivis mirari licet ;
Neque tibi istuc mirum magis videtur quam mihi *Amphitruo*.

AM.

Quo Modo ?

SOS.

Nihilo, inquam, mirum magis tibi istuc quam mihi ;
Neque, ita me Di ament, credebam primo mihimet *Sosiae*,
Donec *Sosia*, ille Egomet, fecit sibi uti crederem :
Ordine omne uti quidque actum est, aput Hostes dum sedimus,
Edissertavit : tum Formam una abstulit cum Nomine ;
Neque Lac Lacti magis est simile quam ille Ego similis est mei ;
Nam ut dudum, ante Lucem, a Portu me praemisisti Domum,——

AM.

Quid igitur ?

SOS.

---

113. *The Word is* vera *in all the former Copys ; but that can not be right ; for our Poet would never have made*

Things, you Villain, as can not be, and ſuch as never were hear'd of before; but I'll preſently ſcore thoſe Lys on your Back.

SOS.

Amphitryon, it is a moſt miſerable Caſe to a good Servant, that, when he tells Truth to his Maſter, he is beat out of that Truth by Might.

A M.

Shew me Reaſons, you Plague, how that can be: I wou'd have it explain'd now how you can be here and at Home.

SOS.

I am really both here and there: any one may be ſurpris'd at this; but it does not ſeem more ſurpriſing to you than to me, *Amphitryon.*

A M.

How is this?

SOS.

I ſay that it is not more ſurpriſing to you than to me; nor, as Heav'n ſhall bleſs me, did I at firſt believe this *Me-Soſia*, till *Soſia*, the other I, forc'd me to believe him: he related ev'ry Thing that was done in the Army, during our Engagement with the Enemy, in exact Order: then he has taken my Form as well as my Name; nor is Milk more like Milk than that I is like me; for when you ſent me lately, before Day, Home from the Port,——

A M.

What then?

---

made id *a Relative to* vera. *The Miſtake of Tranſcribers in writing* vera *for the Adverb* vere *is obvious to be conceived: I therefore venture to give* vere.

SOS.

——prius multo ante Aedis ſtabam (114) quam illo adveneram.

AM.

Quas, Malum, Nugas! Sati'n' tu ſanus es?

SOS.

Sic ſum, ut vides.

AM.

Huic Homini neſcio quid eſt mali mala objectum Manu (115),
Poſtquam a me abiit.

SOS.

Fateor; nam ſum obtuſus Pugnis peſſume.

AM.

Quis te verberavit?

SOS.

Egomet memet, qui nunc ſum Domi.

AM.

Cave quicquam, niſi quod rogabo, mihi reſponderis:
Omnium primum iſte qui ſit *Soſia* hoc dici volo.

SOS.

Tuus eſt Servos.

AM.

Mihi quidem uno te plus etiam eſt quam volo;
Neque poſtquam ſum natus habui, niſi te, Servom *Soſiam.*

SOS.

At ego nunc, *Amphitruo*, dico *Soſiam* Servom tuum
Praeter me alterum, inquam, adveniens faciam, ut offendas, Domi, *Davo*

---

114. Deſ. Heraldus *gives* ſtabat, *which is not only againſt the greater Number of Copys, but deſtroys the Joke, intended by the Poet, of* ſtabam priuſquam illo adveneram.

115. Plautus, *it is plain, here lays a Trap for a Joke, by*

S O S.

—I was ſtanding before the Houſe a long While before I came there.

A M.

You Plague, what trifling's this! Have you your Senſes?

S O S.

As you ſee me, ſo I am.

A M.

I know not what ill has happen'd to this Fellow, ſince he left me, by ſome ill Hand that has been lay'd on him.

S O S.

I confeſs it; for I have been moſt miſerably maul'd by his Fiſts.

A M.

Who has been beating you?

S O S.

T'other I, who am now at Home.

A M.

Beware, and anſwer me to Nothing but what I ſhall aſk: firſt of all, I wou'd be inform'd who that *Sofia* is.

S O S.

Your Servant.

A M

Indeed I have one more in you than I deſire; nor had I, ſince I was born, any other *Sofia* in my Service but you.

S O S.

But I now tell you, *Amphitryon*, that I will bring you where you ſhall find another *Sofia*, beſides me, I ſay,

---

by mala Manu, *alluding to Sorcerys uſed by Herbs and Poyſons, in which, as* Turnebus *obſerves, manual Operation is more required than in Charms by the Incantation of Verſe; therefore* Sofia *is made to play on the Word* Manu *with* Pugnis.

Davo prognatum Patre eodem quo ego ſum, Forma, Aetate, item
Qua ego ſum: quid Opu' 'ſt Verbis? Geminas *Soſia* hic factu' 'ſt tibi.

A M.

Nimia memoras Mira: ſet vidiſtin' Uxorem meam?

S O S.

Quin introire in Aedis numquam licitum eſt.

A M.

Quis te prohibuit?

S O S.

Soſia ille, quem jamdudum dico, is qui me contudit.

A M.

Quis iſtic *Soſia* eſt?

S O S.

Ego, inquam: quoties dicendum eſt tibi?

A M.

Set quid ais? Num obdormiviſti dudum?

S O S.

Nuſquam Gentium.

A M.

Ibi forte iſtum, ſi vidiſſes quendam, in Somnis *Soſiam*.

S O S.

Non ſoleo ego ſomniculoſe Heri Imperia perſequi:
Vigilans vidi, vigilans nunc te video, vigilans fabulor,
Vigilantem ille me jamdudum vigilans Pugnis contudit.

A M.

Quis Homo?

S O S.

Soſia, inquam, ego ille: quaeſo, nonne intelligis?

A M.

Qui, Malum, intelligere quiſquam potis eſt, ita Nugas blatis?

S O S.

ſay, at Home, the Son of *Davus*, of the ſame Shape and Age, as well as of the ſame Father that I am of: what Need of many Words? Your *Soſia* here is become double.

A M.

Theſe are extraordinary Wonders which you relate: but did you ſee my Wife.

S O S.

I was not ſuffer'd to enter the Houſe.

A M.

Who hinder'd you?

S O S.

That *Soſia*, which I've been ſpeaking of, he that bang'd me ſo.

A M.

Who is that *Soſia*?

S O S.

I, I ſay: how often muſt I tell you?

A M.

But what is this you're ſaying? Have you not been ſleeping all this While?

S O S.

Not a Moment.

A M.

Perhaps you ſaw that *Soſia*, if you ſaw any ſuch, in a Dream.

S O S.

I'm not us'd to execute my Maſter's Commands like a Dreamer: awake I ſaw him, awake I now ſee you, awake I am talking, and awake I was when he awake bang'd me with his Fiſts juſt now.

A M.

Who was he?

S O S.

Soſia, I ſay, that I he: pr'ythee, don't you underſtand me?

A M.

How, you Plague, it is poſſible that any one ſhou'd underſtand ſuch a Jargon as you jabber?

S O S.

SOS.

Verum actutum noſces.

AM.

Quem?

SOS.

Illum noſces Servom Soſiam.

AM.

Sequere hac igitur me; nam mi' iſtuc primum exquiſito eſt Opus:
Set vide ex Navi eeferantur quae jam imperavi omnia.

SOS.

Et memor ſum, et diligens, ut quae imperes conpareant: 81
Non ego cum Vino ſimitu (116) ebibi Imperium tuum.

AM.

Utinam Di faxint infecta Dicta Re eveniant tua! (117)

Exeunt.

---

116. Simitu *is the ſame with* ſimul; *in which Senſe our Poet uſes it towards the Beginning of the firſt Act of his* Mercator *and in the firſt Verſe of the ſecond Act of his* Trinummus.

117. Guietus *and* Marolles *give* infecta Dicta ut eveniant tua: *and in the firſt Edition it is* infecta Dicta recte veniant tua. Infecta Dicta *is bad; but* infecta Dicta recte veniant *is abſolute Nonſenſe; and it is evident,*

SOS.

But you'll know presently.

AM.

Whom?

SOS.

You'll know that *Sosia* your Servant.

AM.

Follow me this Way; for it is necessary that I shou'd first examine into that Affair: but see that ev'ry Thing's brought from on Board o' Ship as I order'd.

SOS.

I am both mindful, and diligent, to see your Orders fulfil'd: I have not throw'd your Commands down my Throat together with the Wine.

AM.

I wish the Gods wou'd make this Affair to turn out different in Fact from what you have related!

[*They go.*

---

dent, from this Passage, and many more, in the first Edition, that the Editor of that Edition did not understand his Author, if he understood Latin: *and what Readings I follow in that Edition are by no Means owing to the Judgement of the Editor of it but to the Copy from which that Edition was printed.* Infecta Dicta Re eveniant *is according to* Gronovius; *and the Sense is good, according to this Construction,* Dicta tua eveniant Re infecta.

Scena II.

ALCUMENA et THESSALA.

ALC.

'Ati'n' parva Res eſt Voluptatum in Vita,
Atque in Aetate agunda,
Prae quam quod moleſtum eſt! Ita cuique conparatum
Eſt in Aetate Hominum,
Ita Dis placitum, Voluptatem (118) ut Moeror Comes conſequatur,
Quin incommodi plus malique illico adſit, boni ſi obtigit quid;
Nam ego id nunc experior Domo, atque ipſe de me ſcio, cui Voluptas
Parumper data 'ſt, dum Viri mei mihi Poteſtas videndi fuit
Noctem unam modo, atque is repente abiit a me hinc ante Lucem.
Sola hic mihi nunc videor, quia ille hinc abeſt, quem ego amo praeter omnes.
Plus Aegri ex Abitu Viri quam ex Adventu Voluptatis cepi:
Set hoc me beat ſaltem, quod Perduelles vicit, et Domum
Laudis compos revenit: id Solatio eſt: abſit; dummodo
Laude parte Domum recipiat ſe, feram et perferam uſque

Abitum

118. Voluptati *in the firſt Edition*: *i. e.* Moeror Comes

SCENE II.

ALCMENA and *THESSALY.*

ALC.

HOW few and tranſitory are the Pleaſures of Life compar'd with the Troubles! 'Tis the Lot of human State, and the Will of Heaven, that Pleaſure ſhou'd be follow'd by her Companion Sorrow, and that there ſhou'd be a greater Share of what is incommodious and bad than of good; for that I now experience here, and know it of myſelf, to whom a little Pleaſure was allow'd, while it was granted me to have my Huſband one Night only with me, who left me ſuddenly before Day. I now ſeem ſolitary here to myſelf, becauſe he's abſent, whom moſt of all the World I love. I feel more Pain from my Huſband's Departure than I did Pleaſure from his Arrival: but however this is a Bleſſing to me, that he has conquer'd his Enemys, and return'd Home loaded with Praiſe: that is a Conſolation to me: he may be abſent; but, as his Return is attended with acquir'd Glory, I will bear his Departure with a

Comes Voluptati: Gronovius *and others give* Voluptatem: *either is good.*

Abitum ejus Animo forti atque obfirmato: id modo ſi Mercedis
Datur mihi, ut meus Victor Vir Belli clueat (119), ſatis
Mihi eſſe ducam. Virtus Praemium eſt optumum: (120)
Virtus omnibus Rebus anteit profecto:
Libertas, Salus, Vita, Res, Parentes,
Patria, et Prognati, tutantur, ſervantur:
Virtus omnia in ſe habet: omnia adſunt bona quem penes eſt Virtus. (121)

119. Clueo *is a Verb neuter, ſignifying* to be celebrated, *or* talked of, *and is from the Greek Verb* κλυω *or* κλυεω.

120. Lambinus *prefers* opimum: *but the next Verſe gives*

Scena III.

AMPHITRUO, SOSIA, ALCUMENA, et *THESSALA.*

A M.

EDepol, me Uxori exoptatum credo adventurum Domum,
Quae me amat, quam contra amo, praeſertim Re geſta bene,
Victis Hoſtibus, quos Nemo poſſe ſuperari ratu' 'ſt:
Eos, Auſpicio (122) meo atque Ductu, primo Coetu, vicimus: Certe

122. *This Word is uſed becauſe* Amphitryon *was over all the other Leaders; for the* Imperator *of the Army had not only the ſole Command; but the* Auſpicia *too were in*

reſolute and a ſtedfaſt Mind: if I am ſo rewarded as to have my Huſband celebrated as a Conqueror in Battel, I ſhall receive that as a ſufficient Recompence. Valour is the beſt Reward: Valour is really preferable to all Things: by that, Liberty, Safety, Life, Eſtate, Parents, Country, and Poſterity, are protected and preſerv'd: Valour compriſes ev'ry Thing: ev'ry Good is his who is poſſeſs'd of Valour. (121)

---

gives us Reaſon to believe that our Author uſed an Adjective here in the ſuperlative Senſe.

121. Alcmena *ſpeaks in Character here of Valour; for ſo the antient* Greeks *uſed to talk of it; and* Tyrtæus *wrote a whole Poem in the ſame Strain in Praiſe of it.*

SCENE III.

AMPHITRYON, SOSIA, ALCMENA, and *THESSALY,*

A M.

BY *Pollux*, I believe my Return Home will be very grateful to my Wife, whoſe Love for me is equal to my own for her, eſpecially as my Expedition is attended with Succeſs, the Enemy being conquer'd, whom Nobody thought it poſſible to overcome: yet in the very firſt Engagement we obtain'd a Victory over

---

in his Diſpoſal. Lipſius. *Tho* Auſpicium *ſignifys Conſultation by Flight of Birds, yet it is here uſed for Authority only.*

Certe enim me illi exspectatum, optatum (123), venturum scio.

SOS.

Quid, me non rere exspectatum Amicae venturum meae?

ALC.

Meus Vir hic quidem est! [*Videns illos.*

AM.

Sequere hac tu me. [*Sosiae.*

ALC.

Nam quid ille revortitur,
Qui dudum properare sese aiebat? An ille me tentat sciens?
Atque si id volt experiri, suum Abitum ut desiderem,
Ecastor, me haut invita (124) se Domum recipit suam.
[*Seorsim.*

SOS.

Amphitruo, redire ad Navem meliu' 'st nos.

AM.

Qua Gratia?

SOS.

Quia Domi daturus Nemo est Prandium advenientibus.

AM.

Qui tibi istuc in Mentem venit?

SOS.

Quia enim sero advenimus.

AM.

Qui?

SOS.

---

123. Gronovius *and other modern Editors give* optato; *but* optatum *is in the first Edition; and I doubt not but it is the true Reading, as a little before* exoptatum; *besides, our Poet here certainly designed an Emphasis on* optatum,

them by my Conduct and Command: I am certain that my Approach is expected and much desir'd by her.

S O S.

And don't you think that my Love is in great Expectation of me too?

A L C.

Here's my Husband indeed! [*Seeing them.*

A M.

Do you follow me. [*To* Sosia.

A L C.

What brings him back, when he say'd just now he was in Haste to be gone? Is it on Purpose to try me? If his Desire is to experience how I bear his Departure, by *Castor*, he comes Home to one who is very willing to receive him. [*To herself.*

S O S.

Amphitryon, we had better return on Board o'Ship.

A M.

For what Reason?

S O S.

Because we shall have no Dinner here.

A M.

How came that into your Head?

S O S.

Because we are come too late.

A M.

How so?

---

optatum, *as* exspectatum, OPTATUM, *not only* expected, *but* desired, *or* wished for.

124. Inulta *is the Word here in* Gronovius's *and other Editions:* invita *is in the first Edition,* De l'Oeuvre's, *and some later Editions.*

S O S.

Quia *Alcumenam* ante Aedis ſtare ſaturam (125) intellego.

A M.

Gravidam ego illanc hic reliqui quom abeo.

S O S.

Hei perii miſer!

A M.

Quid tibi eſt?

S O S.

Ad Aquam praebendam (126) commodum adveni Domum,
Decumo (127) poſt Menſe, ut Rationem te dictare intellego.

A M.

Bono Animo es.

S O S.

Sci'n' quam bono Animo ſim? Si Situlam cepero,
Numquam, edepol, tu mihi divini (128) quicquam creduis poſt hunc Diem,
Ni ego illi Puteo (129), ſi occepſo (130), Animam omnem intertraxero.

A M.

Sequere hac me modo; alium ego iſti Rei adlegabo, ne time.

A L C.

Magis nunc meum Officium, ſi huic eam advorſum, arbitror. [*Seorſim.*

A M.

Amphitruo Uxorem ſalutat laetus ſperatam ſuam,
Quam omnium *Thebis* Vir unam eſſe optumam dijudicat,

Quamque

---

125. *This is too poor a Joke, even for ſo low a Perſon as* Soſia.

126. *That is for the Bath.* Taubm.

127. *The Months here to be underſtood are lunar Months, ſay the Critics.*

128. *This,*

SOS.

Becauſe I perceive *Alcmena* ſtanding with her Belly (125) full before the Door.

A M.

I left her big with Child when I went from hence.

SOS.

O! then I'm undone!

A M.

Why? What is't to you?

SOS.

I'm come Home very ſeaſonably to draw Water; for, according to your Reckoning, ſhe has gone ten Months.

A M.

Have a good Heart.

SOS.

Do you know what a good Heart I have? If I take the Bucket, never believe, after this Day, that I have any Forecaſt in me, if I do not draw the very Soul of the Well up, if I once begin.

A M.

Follow me here inſtantly; I'll ſet another about that Work, never fear.

A L C.

I think I ſhall ſhew my Duty more now if I meet him. [*To herſelf.*

A M.

With Joy *Amphitryon* greets his much lov'd Wife,
Whoſe equal, he believes, is not in *Thebes*,
Whoſe

---

128. *This, ſays* Lambinus, *was a ſolemn Form of ſpeaking to gain Credit. A poor Conjecture!*

129. *If I do not draw all the Water out of the Well; for Water, ſays* Camerarius, *is to a Well what the Life, or Soul, is to Animals.*

130. *The ſame with* occepero.

Quamque adeo Cives *Thebani* vero rumificant probam.
Valuiſtin' uſque? Exſpectatuſne advenio?

SOS.

Haut vidi magis
Exſpectatum! Eum ſalutat magis haut quiſquam quam Canem. [*Seorſim.*

AM.

Et cum te gravidam, et cum pulchre plenam, aſpicio, gaudeo.

ALC.

Obſecro, ecaſtor, quid tu me Deridiculi Gratia
Sic ſalutas, atque appellas quaſi dudum non videris,
Quaſique nunc primum recipias te Domum huc ex Hoſtibus,
Atque me nunc proinde appellas quaſi multo poſt videris?

AM.

Immo equidem te, niſi nunc hodie, nuſquam vidi Gentium.

ALC.

Cur negas?

AM.

Quia vera didici dicere.

ALC.

Haut aequom facit,
Qui, quod didicit, id dediſcit. An periclitamini
Quid Animi habeam? Set quid huc vos revortimini tam cito?
An te Auſpicium (131) conmoratum eſt? An Tempeſtas continet,
Qui (132) non abiiſti ad Legiones, ita uti dudum dixeras?

AM.

Dudum! Quam dudum iſtuc factum eſt?

ALC.

---

131. *By* Auſpicium *here* Alcmena *means any Thing ominous.*

132. Qui

Whoſe Virtue is the Theme of ev'ry Tongue.
How, in my Abſence, haſt thou far'd, my Love?
Meet not your tender Wiſhes my Return?

SOS.

Yes truly, I never ſaw greater Signs of tender Wiſhes for your Return! Scarcely any one takes more Notice of him than of a Dog. [*To himſelf.*

A M.

I am glad to ſee you with Child, and in ſo fair a Way.

A L C.

Pr'ythee why do you banter me thus in your Salutation, and accoſt me as if you had not ſeen me lately, as if you was but this Inſtant return'd Home from the Army, and addreſs me now as if you had been long abſent from me?

A M.

Really this is the firſt Sight that I have had of you ſince I left the Army.

A L C.

Why do you deny having ſeen me [illegible] Day.

A M.

Becauſe I've learn'd to ſpeak Truth.

A L C.

He does wrong who departs from what he learn'd. Mean you by this to try my Affection? But what's the Cauſe of your ſo ſudden Return hither? Has ſome Thing ominous retarded you? Or does the Weather prevent your Journey to the Army, where you lately told me you was going?

A M.

Lately! How lately was that?

A L C.

---

132. Qui *is an Adverb here in the ſame Senſe with* quod.

A L C.

Tentas: jam dudum, pridem, modo.

A M.

Qui istuc potis est fieri, quaeso, ut dicis, jam dudum, modo?

A L C.

Quid enim censes, te ut deludam, contra Lusorem meum,
Qui nunc primum te adveniſſe dicas, modo qui hinc abieris?

A M.

Haec quidem Deliramenta (133) loquitur. [*Sosiae.*

S O S.

Pauliſper mane,
Dum edormiſcat unum Somnum.

A M.

Quae nae vigilans ſomniat? (134)

A L C.

Equidem, mecaſtor, vigilo, et vigilans id quod factum [illegible] fabulor;
Nam dudum ante Lucem et iſtunc et te vidi.

A M.

Quo in Loco?

A L C.

Hic, in Aedibus, ubi tu habitas.

A M.

Numquam factum eſt.

S O S.

Non taces?
Quid ſi e Portu Navis huc nos dormientes detulit?

A M.

Etiam tu quoque adſentaris huic?

S O S.

---

133. *This Word is a Compound of three Words*, de from, Lira a Ridge made in plowing, *and* Mens the Mind; Deliramentum *therefore is a Warping of the Mind,*

A L C

You're trying me: very lately, juſt now, this Inſtant almoſt.

A M.

Pr'ythee how can that poſſibly be, very lately, this Inſtant almoſt, as you ſay?

A L C.

Do you think that I wou'd triſle with you as you have done with me, who aſſert that this is the firſt of your Arrival, when you but juſt now went from hence?

A M.

This is all Frenzy. [*To* Soſia.

S O S.

Stay a little While, till ſhe has ſleep'd out this one Dream.

A M.

Who, ſhe that dreams while ſhe's waking?

A L C.

By *Caſtor*, I am truly awake, and waking tell you what has happen'd; for lately before Day-light I ſaw both him and you.

A M.

In what Place?

A L C.

Here, in this Houſe, your own Habitation.

A M.

No ſuch Thing.

S O S.

Can't you be quiet? What if the Ship brought us hither from the Harbour while we were ſleeping!

A M.

What, do you ſooth her in her Frenzy too?

S O S.

Mind, quaſi a Sulco et Lira Rationis, *as* Iſidorus ſays.

134. *In the firſt and in moſt Editions there is no Interrogation here; and it is* ne *not* nae; *but that is Nonſenſe; and I doubt not but it ſhould be as I have given it.*

SOS.

Quid vis fieri?
Non tu ſcis, Bacchae bacchanti ſi velis advorſarier,
Ex inſana inſaniorem facies, feriet ſaepius;
Si obſequare, una reſolvas Plaga. (135)

AM.

At, pol, quin certa Res
Hanc eſt objurgare, quae me hodie advenientem Domum
Noluerit ſalutare.

SOS.

Irritabis Crabrones.

AM.

Tace. [Sosiae.
Alcumena, unum rogare te volo.

ALC.

Quid vis rogare? Roga.

AM.

Num tibi aut Stultitia acceſſit, aut ſuperat Superbia?

ALC.

Qui iſtuc in Mente eſt tibi, mi Vir, percontarier?

AM.

Quia ſalutare venientem me ſolebas antehac,
Appellare itidem ut pudicae ſuos Viros quae ſunt ſolent:
Eo More expertem te factam adveniens offendi Domi.

ALC.

Ecaſtor, equidem te certo heri hic advenientem ilico
Et ſalutavi, et valuiſſeſne uſque exquiſivi ſimul,
Mi Vir; et Manum prehendi, et Oſculum tituli tibi

SOS.

135. *The Sentiment is this, if you reſiſt a Bacchanal, in her Bacchanalian Ravings, at the Time of performing the Rites of* Bacchus, *when, according to Cuſtom, ſhe ſtrikes every one ſhe meets with her Thyrſis, the more you oppoſe*

SOS.

What wou'd you have done? Don't you know that, if you oppoſe a Bacchanal in her Bacchanalian Rage, ſhe will from a mad Woman become a Fury, and ſtrike the oftener; but, if you give her her Way, 'tis but one Stroke, and all's over.

A M.

But, by *Pollux*, I'm reſolv'd to ſhew ſome Reſentment to her, who wou'd not ſo much as welcome me Home this Day.

SOS.

You may as well thruſt your Hand into a Hornet's Neſt.

A M.

Hold your Tongue. [To *Soſia.*] *Alcmena*, I wou'd aſk you one Thing.

A L C.

What wou'd you aſk? Let me hear.

A M.

Is it Folly, or Pride, which thus poſſeſſes you?

A L C.

How came ſuch a Queſtion into your Head, Huſband?

A M.

Becauſe you uſed before to welcome my Approach as all virtuous Wives uſually meet their Huſbands: in that Manner I formerly found you at my coming Home.

A L C.

By *Caſtor*, I yeſterday really bad you welcome here as ſoon as you arriv'd, and at the ſame Time, Huſband, I aſk'd you after your Health; and I took you by your Hand, and gave you a Kiſs.

oppoſe her, the oftener ſhe will ſtrike you; but, if you yield to her, and give her her Way, ſhe will ſtrike one Blow and no more. PISTORIS. Reſolvas BOXHORN *explains by* liberabis te.

S O S.

Tun' heri hunc ſalutaviſti?

A L C.

Et te quoque etiam, *Soſia.*

S O S.

Amphitruo, ſperavi ego iſtam tibi parituram Filium;
Verum non eſt Puero gravida.

A M.

Quid igitur?

S O S.

Inſania. 66

A L C.

Equidem ſana ſum; et Deos quaeſo ut ſalva pariam Filium:
Verum tu magnum Malum habebis, ſi hic ſuum Officium facit,
Ob iſtuc Omen, Ominator, capies quod te condecet.

S O S.

Enimvero praegnanti oportet Malum (136) dari,
Ut quod obrodat ſit, Animo ſi male eſſe occeperit. 71

A M.

Tu me heri hic vidiſti?

A L C.

Ego, inquam, ſi vis decies dicere.

A M.

In Somnis fortaſſe.

A L C.

Imo vigilans vigilantem.

A M.

Vae miſero mihi!

S O S.

Quid tibi eſt?

A M.

---

136. Gronovius *and other Editors give* oportet et Malum et Malum dari; *which is unneceſſary, and makes it a clumſy Joke. The firſt Edition has it as I give*

SOS.

Did you bid him welcome here yesterday?

ALC.

Yes, *Sosia*, and I likewise welcom'd you here.

SOS.

Amphitryon, I had Hopes of a Son being born to you; but she labours under no such Burden.

AM.

Under what then?

SOS.

A Disease call'd Madness.

ALC.

I am not mad; and I pray to Heaven that I may be safely deliver'd of a Son: but, if *Amphitryon* treats you according to your Deserts, you shall have the Fruits of your Art, Master Conjurer, soon.

SOS.

Fruits (136) shou'd be giv'n to a Woman with Child, that she may have something to chew upon, if any Thing affects her.

AM.

Did you see me here yesterday?

ALC.

Yes, I say, if you will have me tell you so often.

AM.

In your Sleep perhaps.

ALC.

Indeed we were both awake.

AM.

Alas! alas!

SOS.

What's the Matter?

---

give it with one Malum *here: and this playing on the Word is natural, as* Malum *signifys a* Punishment *or any* Evil, *and an* Apple.

A M.
Delirat Uxor.
S O S.
Atra Bili percita eſt;
Nulla Res tam delirantis Homines concinnat cito.
A M.
Ubi primum tibi ſenſiſti, Mulier, impliciſcier? (137)

A L C.
Equidem, ecaſtor, ſana et ſalva ſum.
A M.
Cur igitur praedicas
Te heri me vidiſſe, qui hac Noctu in Portum advecti ſumus?
Ibi coenavi, atque ibi quievi in Navi Noctem perpetem;
Neque meum Pedem huc intuli etiam in Aedis, ut cum Exercitu
Hinc profectus ſum ad Teleboas Hoſtis, eoſque ut vicimus.
A L C.
Immo mecum coenaviſti, et mecum cubuiſti.
A M.
Quid id eſt? (138)
A L C.
Vera dico.
A M.
Non quidem, hercle, de hac Re, de aliis neſcio.

A L C.
Primulo Diluculo abiviſti ad Legiones.
A M.
Quomodo?
S O S.
Recte dicit: ut conmeminit, Somnium narrat tibi: Set,

137. *Implicari, involvi, iſtam atram Bilem.* Lambin.
138. Meurſius *inſerted*, Gronovius *ſays reſtored, the following Verſe, after* quid id eſt?

Nihil

A M.

My Wife's mad.

S O S.

She's ſeiz'd with a Melancholly; and that ſoon riſes to Madneſs.

A M.

Woman, when did you firſt perceive this Malady coming on you?

A L C.

Truly, by *Caſtor*, I am well in Body and Mind.

A M.

Why then do you affirm that you ſaw me yeſterday, when we laſt Night arriv'd in Port? There I ſup'd, and there I lay on Board o' Ship all Night; nor have I ſat my Foot here in this Houſe before, ſince I march'd from hence with the Army to meet the *Teleboans*, and overcame them.

A L C.

Indeed with me you ſup'd, and with me you lay.

A M.

What's that?

A L C.

I ſpeak the Truth.

A M.

By *Hercules*, not now on this Affair, on other Things I know not.

A L C.

You went to the Army at Break of Day.

A M.

How's that?

S O S.

'Tis very true: ſhe is relating her Dream to you as

Nihil te pudet, ſceleſta? Populi in Conſpectum ingredi. *Are you not aſhamed, you wicked Woman? I entered in the Sight of the People.*

Set, Mulier, poſtquam experrecta es, prodigiali *Jovi*
Aut Mala ſalſa hodie, aut Thure, conprecatam oportuit. (139)

A L C.

Vae Capiti tuo!

S O S.

Tuo iſtuc refert, niſi curaveris. (140)

A L C.

Iterum jam hic in me inclementer dicit, atque id ſine Malo. (141)

A M.

Tace tu. [*Soſiae.*) —Tu dic, egone abs te abii hinc hodie cum Diluculo? [*Alcumenae.* 90

A L C.

Quis igitur, niſi vos, narravit mihi illic ut fuerit Praelium?

A M.

An etiam id tu ſcis?

A L C.

Quippe quae ex te audivi, ut Urbem maxumam Expugnaviſſes, Regemque *Pterelam* tute occideris.

A M.

Egone iſtuc dixi?

A L C.

Tute iſtuc, etiam adſtante hoc *Soſia.*

A M.

---

139. *If the Freedom which* Soſia *takes with his Lady, can be reliſhed by* Engliſh *Readers, this is not badly obſerved by him: as ſhe talks of her Huſband going at Break of Day, it looks like a Dream to thoſe who ſuſpect Nothing of* Jupiter's *Prancks. It was a Part of the Superſtition of the antient* Greeks *to make ſuch Offerings as are here mentioned to* Jupiter, *after Dreams which might ſeem ominous.*

140. *The common Reading is* tua iſtuc refert, ſi curaveris; *which labours for Want of a good Meaning: and*

Mr.

well as ſhe can recollect it: but, Madam, you ought, as ſoon as you was up, to have offer'd a ſalt Cake, or Franckincenſe, to *Jupiter* the Diſpoſer of Prodigys.(139)

A L C.

A Vengeance on your Head!

S O S.

On thine, if you do not take Care.

A L C.

How ſaucyly the Fellow ſpeaks to me again, and with Impunity!

A M.

Hold your Tongue. [To *Soſia.*]—Do you anſwer me; did I leave you at Break of Day this Morning? [To *Alcmena.*

A L C.

Who, but you, gave me a Relation of the Battel?

A M.

Know you how that was too?

A L C.

Yes, as I hear'd it from you, how you beſieg'd their chief Town, and ſlew King *Pterelas* yourſelf.

A M.

Did I tell you that?

A L C.

Yes, you told it me, and *Soſia* here was by.

A M.

Mr. Echard *did right in not tranſlating this and the preceding Speech, as he could make Nothing of them: but with the Help of* Lambinus, *a Critic of great Accuracy, and with ſome Conſideration of our own, we may reconcile the two Speeches.* Lambinus *prefers* niſi *to* ſi; *and if we give* tuo *inſtead of* tua, *and ſuppoſe* Malum *underſtood in the preceding Speech, as it is to be ſuppoſed, then* tuo Capiti iſtuc Malum refert, niſi curaveris, *is the true Meaning.*

141. *That is* impune. LAMB.

A M.

Audi'ſtin' tu me narrare hoc hodie? [*Soſiae.*

S O S.

Ubi ego audiverim?

A M.

Hanc roga.

S O S.

Me quidem praeſente numquam factum eſt, quod ſciam.

A L C.

Mirum quin te advorſus dicat.

A M.

Soſia, age; me huc aſpice.

S O S.

Specto.

A M.

Vera volo loqui te, nolo adſentari mihi.
Audiviſtin' tu hodie me illi dicere ea quae illa autumat?

S O S.

Quaeſo, edepol, num tu quoque etiam inſanis, cum id me interrogas,
Qui ipſus equidem nunc primum iſtanc tecum conſpicio ſimul?

A M.

Quin nunc, Mulier, audi'n' illum?

A L C.

Ego vero, ac falſum dicere.

A M.

Neque tu illi, neque mi' Viro ipſi, credis?

A L C.

Eo fit, quia mihi
Plurimum credo; et ſcio iſta haec facta proinde ut proloquor.

A M.

Tun' me heri adveniſſe dicis?

A L C.

Tun' te abi'ſſe hodie hinc negas?

A M.

A M.

Did you hear me relate all this? [To *Sosia.*

S O S.

Where shou'd I hear it?

A M.

Ask her.

S O S.

There was never any such Thing told in my Presence, that I know of.

A L C.

No Wonder that he shou'd take your Part.

A M.

Come here *Sosia*; look at me.

S O S.

I do look at you.

A M.

I wou'd have you speak Truth, without Partiality to me. Did you hear me tell her what she says I did?

S O S.

Pr'ythee are you mad too, that you ask me such a Question, when this is the first Time of my seeing you together?

A M.

Well, Woman, do you hear what he says?

A L C.

Yes, and what he says is false.

A M.

Do you believe neither him nor me your Husband?

A L C.

So it is, because I believe myself most; and I know that these Things are exactly as I have related them.

A M.

Do you say that I came here yesterday?

A L C.

Do you deny that you went from hence this Day?

A M.

A M.

Nego enimvero; et me advenire nunc primum aio ad te Domum.

A L C.

Obsecro, etiamne hoc negabis, te auream Pateram mihi
Dedisse Dono hodie, qua te illic donatum esse dixeras?

A M.

Neque, edepol, dedi, neque dixi; verum ita animatus fui,
Itaque nunc sum, ut ea te Patera donem: set quis istuc tibi
Dixit?

A L C.

Ego quidem ex te audivi; et ex tua accepi Manu Pateram.

A M.

Mane, mane, obsecro te. (*Alcumenae.*) Nimis demiror, *Sosia*,
Qui illaec illic me donatum esse aurea Patera sciat,
Nisi tu dudum hanc convenisti, et narravisti haec omnia.

S O S.

Neque, edepol, ego dixi, neque istam vidi nisi tecum simul.

A L C (142)

Quid hoc sit Hominis! Vi'n' proferri Pateram?

A M.

Proferri volo.

A L C.

142. *In all the Editions which I have seen* Amphitryon *is made to say* quid hoc sit Hominis! *Upon which says* Taubmannus, Amphitryon *speaks this to himself, as tho he should say* I have a Wonder of a Wife! *To which* Boxhorn *adds*, who could not know this but by more than human Art: *and* Echard *translates it* (*I know not why*)

A M.

Yes I do; and I affirm that now is the firſt of my Appearance at Home.

A L C.

I beſeech you, will you deny this too, that you lately gave me a golden Cup, which you ſay'd was there preſented to you?

A M.

By *Pollux*, I neither gave it to you, nor told you any ſuch Thing; but I was ſo determin'd, and am now, to make you a Preſent of that Cup: but who told you of that?

A L C.

I hear'd it from your own Lips; and from your own Hand did I receive the Cup.

A M.

Stay, ſtay, I beſeech you. [To *Alcmena.*] I can not ſufficiently wonder, *Soſia*, how ſhe ſhou'd know that a golden Cup was preſented to me, unleſs you met her lately, and told her all this.

S O S.

By *Pollux*, I neither told her, nor ſaw her till now with you.

A L C

What a Fellow this is! Wou'd you have the Cup produc'd?

A M.

I wou'd.

A L C.

---

why) what Woman's that? *ſuppoſing* Amphitryon *to be looking at* Theſſala Alcmena's *Maid. I doubt not but theſe Words were originally for* Alcmena, *who thus expreſſes her Surpriſe at* Soſia *denying having been with her,* Mercury *having been with her in* Soſia's *Likeneſs: and then ſhe turns to* Amphitryon, *and aſks him, if he will have the Cup produced as an Evidence.*

A L C.

Fiat. Tu, *Theſſala*, intus (143) Pateram proferto foras,
Qua hodie meus Vir donavit me. [Exit *Theſſala.*

143. Intus Pateram proferto *is a* Greek *Form of ſpeaking,*

Scena IV.

AMPHITRUO, SOSIA, et *ALCUMENA.*

A M.

SEcede huc tu, *Soſia.*
Enimvero illud praeter alia Mira miror maxume,
Si haec habet Pateram illam. [*Separatim* Sosiae.

S O S.

An etiam id credis, quae in hac Ciſtellula,
Tuo Signo obſignata, fertur?

A M.

Salvom Signum eſt?

S O S.

Inſpice.

A M.

Recte, ita eſt ut obſignavi.

S O S.

Quaeſo quin tu iſtam jubes
Pro cerrita (144) circumferri?

A M.

144. Cerriti *and* Larvati *are the ſame as* male ſani, *diſordered in their Senſes,* aut Cereris Ira, et Larvarum Incurſione, Animo vexati, *or tormented in Mind by the Anger*

ALC.

It ſhall be. *Theſſala*, do you bring from within the Cup out which my Huſband this Day preſented to me. [*Theſſala* goes.

ſpeaking, το ενδος Ποτηριον, *which is the ſame as*, proferto Pateram eam quae intus eſt. DOUZA.

SCENE IV.

AMPHITRYON, SOSIA, and *ALCMENA.*

AM.

COME here *Soſia*. Of all Wonders the greateſt really will be if ſhe has that Cup.

[Aſide to *Soſia*.

SOS.

Do you believe that can be, when the Cup is in this Caſket, ſeal'd with your own Seal?

AM.

Is the Seal ſecure?

SOS.

Look at it.

AM.

'Tis ſafe, juſt as I ſeal'd it.

SOS.

Pray will you not give Directions to have this Diſorder of her Mind cur'd?

Anger of Ceres, *and by the Poſſeſſion of Sprites.* NONIUS. Circumferre Verbum pontificale eſt, *for* luſtrare *and* Luſtratione curare, *as* Servius *obſerves upon* Virgil ÆNEID. Lib. 6.

A M.

Edepol, quin facto eſt Opus; (145)
Nam haec quidem, edepol, Larvarum plena eſt.

145. *That is,* Circumlatione, *or* Luſtratione, eſt Opus. Boxh.

Scena V.

ALCUMENA, AMPHITRUO, SOSIA, et *THESSALA.*

A L C.

Quid Verbis Opu' 'ſt?
Hem tibi Pateram, eccam! [*Amphitruoni.*

A M.

Cedo mihi.

A L C.

Age, aſpice huc ſis nunc jam,
Tu qui quae facta inficiare; quem ego jam hic convincam palam.
Eſtne haec Patera qua donatus illic?
[*Oſtendens Pateram.*

A M.

Summe *Juppiter,*
Quid ego video! Haec eſt ea profecto Patera. Perii, *Sofia.*

S O S.

Aut, pol, haec Praeſtigiatrix Mulier multo maxuma eſt,
Aut Pateram hic ineſſe oportet.

A M.

Agedum, eam ſolve Ciſtulam.

S O S.

A M.

By *Pollux* there's Need of it; for she's poſſeſs'd.

SCENE V.

ALCMENA, AMPHITRYON, SOSIA, and *THESSALA.*

A L C.

WHAT Need of Words? Here's the Cup, look at it. [To *Amphitryon.*

A M.

Give it to me.

A L C.

Come, now view it well, you who deny the plaineſt Facts; but I will openly convince you here. Is this the Cup which was preſented to you?

[*Shewing the Cup.*

A M.

Almighty *Jove*, what do I ſee? This is the very Cup. *Soſia*, I am undone.

S O S.

By *Pollux*, either this is by much the greateſt Witch that ever was, or the Cup muſt be in here.

A M.

Be quick, and open the Caſket.

SOS.

Quid ego iſtam exſolvam? Obſignata 'ſt recte: Res geſta eſt bene.
Tu peperiſti *Amphitruonem*, ego alium peperi *Soſiam*;
Nunc ſi Pateram Patera peperit, omnes congeminavimus:

AM.

Certum eſt aperire, atque inſpicere.

SOS.

Vide ſis Signi quid ſiet,
Ne poſterius in me Culpam transferas. (146)

AM.

Aperi modo;
Nam haec quidem nos delirantes facere Dictis poſtulat.

ALC.

Unde haec igitur eſt, niſi abs te, quae mihi Dono data eſt?

AM.

Opus mi' eſt iſtuc exquiſito.

SOS.

Juppiter! Pro *Juppiter!*

AM.

Quid tibi eſt?

SOS.

Hic Patera nulla in Ciſtula 'ſt.

AM.

Quid ego audio?

SOS.

Id quod verum eſt.

AM.

At cum Cruciatu jam, ni apparet, tuo.

ALC.

Haec quidem apparet. [*Oſtendens Pateram.*

AM.

Quis igitur tibi dedit?

ALC.

Qui me rogat. *SOS.*

---

146. *The common Reading is* conferas: *the firſt Edition*

S O S.

Why shou'd I open it? 'Tis seal'd fast: the Affair goes well for us. You have brought forth an *Amphitryon*, I have brought forth another *Sosia*; now if the Cup shou'd bring forth another Cup, we have all doubled one another.

A M.

I am resolv'd to open it and see.

S O S.

Look well at the Seal, that you may not afterwards lay the Fault on me.

A M.

Open it immediately; for she endeavours to make us mad with her Assertions.

A L C.

From whom cou'd I have this but from you, who gave it me?

A M.

That's my Bus'ness to examine into.

S O S.

O! *Jupiter!* O! *Jove!*

A M.

What has happen'd to you?

S O S.

Here's no Cup in the Casket.

A M.

What do I hear?

S O S.

That which is true.

A M.

You shall pay dearly for it, unless it's forthcoming.

A L C.

Here it is forthcoming. [*Shewing the Cup.*

A M.

But who gave it to you?

A L C.

He who asks me the Question. *S O S.*

---

tion has transferas; *which is preferable.*

SOS.

Me captas; quia tute ab Navi clanculum huc alia Via
Praecurriſti; atque hinc (147) Pateram tute exemiſti, atque eam
Huic dediſti; poſthac rurſus obſigna'ſti clanculum.

AM.

Hei mihi! Jam tu quoque hujus adjuvas Inſaniam. [*Soſiae.*
Ai'n' heri nos adveniſſe hue? [*Alcumenae.*

ALC.

Aio, advenienſque ilico
Me ſalutaviſti, et ego te; et Oſculum tetuli tibi.

AM.

Jam illud non placet Principium de Oſculo. [*Seorſim.*]
Perge exſequi. (148)

ALC.

Laviſti.

AM.

Quid poſteaquam lavi?

ALC.

Accubuiſti.

SOS.

Euge! Optume!
Nunc exquire.

AM.

Ne interpella. [*Soſiae.*] Perge porro dicere. [*Alcumenae.*

ALC.

Coena adpoſita eſt: coenaviſti mecum: ego accubui ſimul.

AM.

In eodem Lecto? (149)

ALC.

In eodem. *SOS.*

---

147. Ex Ciſtula *from the Caſket.*

148. *The common Reading is* pergam. Muretus *gives* perge, *and rightly, as ſoon after* perge porro dicere.

149. *According*

S O S.

You trap me; for you ran privately before from the Ship ſome other Way hither; and you took the Cup from hence (147), and gave it to her, and afterwards privately ſeal'd it up again.

A M.

Ah! Now you indulge her Frenzy too. (To *Soſia.*) Do you ſay that we came here yeſterday?

[To *Alcmena.*

A L C.

I do, and we ſaluted each other immediately at your Entrance; and I gave you a Kiſs.

A M.

That Beginning with a Kiſs pleaſes me not. [*To himſelf.*] Go on.

A L C.

You bath'd.

A M.

What after bathing?

A L C.

You ſat down.

S O S.

So! Beſt of all! Now proceed in your Examination.

A M.

Don't interrupt her. [To *Soſia.*] Go on with your Story. [To *Alcmena.*

A L C.

Supper was ſet on: you ſup'd with me: I likewiſe took my Place.

A M.

On the ſame Couch?

A L C.

The very ſame.

S O S.

149. *According to the accumbent Manner of the Antients at their Entertainments:* Gronov. Lectus *is therefore a Bed on which they ſat to eat, and likewiſe a Bed on which they ſleeped.*

S O S.

Hei! Non placet Convivium.

A M.

Sine modo Argumenta dicat. [*Sosiae.*] Quid postquam coenavimus?

[*Alcumenae.*

A L C.

Te dormitare aiebas. Mensa ablata est; cubitum hinc abiimus.

A M.

Ubi tu cubuisti?

A L C.

In eodem Lecto tecum, una in Cubiculo.

A M.

Perdidisti!

S O S.

Quid tibi est? (150)

A M.

Haec me modo ad Mortem dedit.

A L C.

Quid jam, amabo?

A M.

Ne me appella.

S O S.

Quid tibi est?

A M.

Perii miser,
Quia Pudicitiae hujus Vitium, me hic absente, est additum.

A L C.

Obsecro, ecastor, cur istuc, mi Vir, ex te audio?

A M.

---

150. Amphitryon *having a little before sayed* quid tibi est *to* Sosia, *when he seemed astonished at opening the*

S O S.

How! The Banquet don't pleaſe.

A M.

Let her go on with her Story. (To *Sofia.*) What happen'd after Supper? [To *Alcmena.*

A L C.

You ſay'd that you was ſleepy. The Table was remov'd; and we went to Bed.

A M.

Where did you ly?

A L C.

In the ſame Bed, the ſelf-ſame Bed, with you.

A M.

You have undone me!

S O S.

What has happen'd to you? (150)

A M.

This Woman has this Inſtant giv'n me my Death.

A L C.

In the Name of Love what's that you utter?

A M.

O! do not ſpeak to me.

S O S.

What has happen'd to you?

A M.

I am a Wretch undone, ruin'd by the Diſhonour of this Woman, while I was abſent from her.

A L C.

Why, I beſeech you, Huſband, do I hear this from you?

A M.

---

the Caſket and finding the Cup gone, the Poet makes Sofia *retort the Queſtion on his Maſter with ſome Humour here.*

A M.

Vir ego tuus sim? Ne me appella falsa (151) falso Nomine.

S O S.

Haeret haec Res, siquidem haec jam Mulier facta 'st ex Viro. (152) [*Separatim.*

A L C.

Quid ego feci, qua istaec propter Dicta dicantur mihi?

A M.

Tu edictas Facta tua: ex me quaeris quid deliqueris?

A L C.

Quid ego tibi deliqui, si, cui nupta sum, tecum fui? 41

A M.

Tun' mecum fueris? Quid illac impudente audacius? Saltem tute, si Pudoris egeas, sumas mutuum. (153)

A L C.

Istuc Facinus, quod tu insimulas, nostro Generi non decet. 44

Tu si me Inpudicitiae captas (154), non potes capere.

A M.

Proh! Di inmortales! Cognosci'n' tu me saltem, *Sosia?*

S O S.

Propemodum.

A M.

---

151. *The common Reading is* falso falso Nomine, *the first* falso *adverbially used: the first Edition has* ne me appella falso Nomine; *which avoids Tautology; but* Douza *chuses* falsa; *which is significant, and not tautologous, that is,* ne, tu falsa, me appella falso Nomine.

152. *This, as* Gronovius *observes, is the Joke of a Slave:* Vir *signifying both a Man and a Husband,* Sosia *takes*

A M.

I your Husband? O! you false Woman, call me not by so false a Name.

S O S.

This is a fine Affair truly, if he is chang'd from a Man to a Woman. [*To himself.*

A L C.

What have I done to provoke you to talk thus to me?

A M.

You declare what you have done: do you ask me in what you have offended?

A L C.

How have I offended, if I was with you, who are my Husband?

A M.

With me? Can any Thing exceed her Impudence? If you want Modesty, you ought at least to borrow some.

A L C.

The Crime of which you accuse me has not stain'd our Family. If you wou'd take away my Character, you will not be able so to do.

A M.

O! ye immortal Gods! Do you know me, *Sosia.*

S O S.

Yes surely.

A M.

---

takes this Occasion to vent a low Jest.

153. *The Meaning of* sumas mutuum *is,* you might borrow it: mutuum *is a Word used in borrowing Money on Interest, the Lender and Borrower having then a mutual Advantage: so* Amphitryon *does not misapply the Expression; for, if a Woman counterfeits Modesty, she may be sayed to borrow it: as she is not really in Possession of it, what she uses is none of her own.*

154. *Pro* velis capere. BOXHORN.

A M.

Coenavin' ego heri in Navi in Portu *Perfico?* (155)

A L C.

Mihi quoque adſunt Teſtes, qui illud quod ego dicam adſentiant.

A M.

Qui Teſtes? (156)

A L C.

Teſtes.

A M.

Quid teſticulare?

A L C.

Enim uno ſat eſt;
Nec, nobis praeſente (157), aliquis, niſi Servos *Soſia*, adfuit.

S O S.

Neſcio quid iſtuc Negoti dicam, niſi quiſpiam eſt *Amphitruo* alius, qui forte, te hic abſente, (158) tamen Tuam Rem curet, teque abſente hic Munus fungatur tuum:
Namque de illo ſubditivo *Soſia* Mirum nimis eſt;
Certe de iſtoc *Amphitruone* jam alterum Mirum eſt magis.
Neſcio quis Praeſtigiator hanc fruſtratur Mulierem.

A L C.

Per ſupremi Regis Regnum juro, et Matrem-familias
Junonem, quam me vereri et metuere eſt par maxume, Ut

---

155. *See Note the 76th.*

156. *Theſe Speeches, from* Qui Teſtes *to* Sosia adfuit, *are not in the firſt Edition.*

157. Praeſente *and* abſente nobis *the Antients frequently uſed, as* Nonius *ſhews.* Gronov. *This Manner of*

A M.

Did I ſup yeſterday on Board o' Ship in the *Perſian* Port? (154)

A L C.

I have Witneſſes likewiſe here, who can teſtify what I ſay.

A M.

What Witneſſes?

A L C.

Witneſſes.

A M.

To what End are you for bringing Witneſſes?

A L C.

However, one is ſufficient; for, beſides ourſelves, here was Nobody but *Soſia*.

S O S.

I know not what to ſay to this Affair, unleſs there is another *Amphitryon*, who in your Abſence takes Care of your Bus'neſs, and who, while you are away, dos your Office here: that ſubſtitute *Soſia* ſurpriſes me greatly; but that ſubſtitute *Amphitryon* ſurpriſes me more. I know not what Juggler has impos'd on this Lady.

A L C.

By the Kingdom of higheſt *Jove*, and by the guardian Matron *Juno*, whom equally I fear and reverence

---

of writing is barbarous, however countenanced by the greateſt Names of Antiquity.

158. *Moſt Editions have* ſic *betwixt* abſente *and* tamen, *which is ſuperfluous both in Senſe and Meaſure:* ſic *is not in the firſt Edition.*

Ut mi', extra unum te, mortalis Nemo Corpus Corpore
Contigit (159), quo me inpudicam faceret.

A M.

Vera iſtaec velim.

A L C

Vera dico, ſet nequicquam, quoniam non vis credere.

A M.

Mulier es, audacter juras.

A L C.

Quae non deliquit, decet
Audacem eſſe, confidenter pro ſe et proterve loqui.

A M.

Satis audacter.

A L C.

Ut pudicam decet.

A M.

In Verbis proba 's. (160)

A L C.

Non ego illam mihi Dotem duco eſſe, quae Dos dicitur,
Set Pudicitiam, et Pudorem, et ſedatum Cupidinem,
De'um Metum, Parentum Amorem, et Cognat'um Concordiam,
Tibi morigera, atque ut munifica ſim bonis, proſim probis.

S O S.

---

159. Boxhorn *obſerves that* Plautus *is right in making* Alcmena *ſay* Nemo mortalis, no Mortal, *in which ſhe departs not from the Truth, becauſe it was* Jupiter *whom ſhe took for* Amphitryon. *This is a trifling Remark; for, if ſhe had ſayed* Nemo *without* mortalis, *her Will had not uttered a Falſehood.* Corpus Corpore contigit *is a blunt Expreſſion to fall from the Lips of a fine Lady of Virtue: all that is to be ſayed for it is, that*

Simplicity

as I ought, I ſwear that no Mortal, beſides yourſelf, ever approach'd me ſo as to impeach my Chaſtity.

A M.

I wiſh that was true.

A L C.

I ſpeak Nothing but what is true, tho in vain, becauſe you will not believe.

A M.

You are a Woman, you ſwear boldly.

A L C.

She who has commited no Offence may well be bold, and defend herſelf with Confidence and Reſolution.

A M.

Bold enough.

A L C.

As much as is conſiſtent with Modeſty.

A M.

You are modeſt, if your Word may be taken.

A L C.

I do not look on that as my Portion which is commonly regarded as ſuch, but my Chaſtity, my Modeſty, my Continence, my Fear of the Gods, my Love to my Parents, and my Amity to my Kindred, that I am obedient to you, and that I am courteous to the good, and friendly to the virtuous.

Simplicity of Manners is the Beauty of Alcmena's *Character.*

160. *The common Reading is* tu Verbis probas: GRUTERUS *propoſes* Ai'n? Verbis proba es: *the firſt Edition has* in Verbis probas; *and I doubt not but it ſhould be ſo,* probas *being for* proba es: *the Ignorance, or Careleſſneſs, of Tranſcribers might eaſily make the Miſtake, and join them, leaving no Room for an Apoſtrophe.*

SOS.

Nae iſta, edepol, ſi haec vera loquitur, ex (161) amuſſim eſt optuma!

AM.

Delinitus ſum profecto ita, ut me qui ſim neſciam,

SOS.

Amphitruo es profecto: cave ſis ne tu te Uſu (162) perduis,
Ita nunc Homines inmutantur, poſtquam peregre advenimus.

AM.

Mulier, iſtam Rem inquiſitam certum eſt non amittere.

ALC.

Edepol, me libente, facies.

AM.

Quid ais? Reſponde mihi.
Quid ſi adduco tuum Cognatum huc a Navi *Naucratem*,
Qui mecum una vectus eſt una Navi, atque is ſi denegat
Facta, quae tu facta dicis, quid tibi aequom eſt fieri?
Numquid Cauſam dicis, quin te hoc multem Matrimonio?

ALC.

Si deliqui, nulla Cauſa eſt.

AM.

Convenit. Tu, *Soſia*,
Duc has intro. Ego huc ab Navi mecum adducam *Naucratem*.

[Exit *Amphitruo*.

Scena

---

161. *The Prepoſition* ex *is here made to precede* amuſſim *an Adverb in the ſame Senſe as if it had been* ex Amuſſi: examuſſim *is taken for one Word by many, but erroneouſly.* Ex amuſſim *is a ſtrong Expreſſion, taken from*

S O S.

By *Pollux*, if what ſhe ſays is true, ſhe is Perfection itſelf!

A M.

I am ſo poſſeſs'd, that I know not who I am.

S O S.

You are really *Amphitryon*: however, be cautious, leſt you loſe yourſelf by theſe Means (162), Men are ſo chang'd ſince we arriv'd here.

A M.

Woman, I am determin'd not to omit making a ſtrict Enquiry into this Affair.

A L C.

By *Pollux*, you have my Conſent.

A M.

What do you ſay? Anſwer me. What, if I bring your Kinſman *Naucrates* hither from on Board, who ſail'd in the ſame Ship with me, and if he denys all that you aſſert, what do you deſerve? Can you ſhew Cauſe why the Sentence of an Adultreſs ſhou'd not paſs on you?

A L C.

If I have offended, there is no Cauſe.

A M.

Agreed. *Soſia*, do you conduct theſe in. I'll go, and bring *Naucrates* hither from on Board o'Ship.

[*Amphitryon* goes.

from Amuſſis *a Maſon's or Carpenter's Rule or Line.*

162. *Becauſe*, ſays Lambinus, *if you do not know who you are, another may come in your Place, and deprive you of yourſelf.*

Scena VI.

SOSIA, ALCUMENA, et THESSALA.

SOS.

NUNC quidem præter nos Nemo est, dic mihi verum serio,
Ecquis alius *Sosiæ* intu' 'st, qui mei similis siet?

ALC.

Abi (163) hinc a me dignus Domino Servos.

SOS.

Abeo, si jubes.

[Exit *Sosia*.

Scena

163. Abi'n *is the common Reading; but it can not be right;*

Scene VI.

SOSIA, ALCMENA, and *THESSALA.*

SOS.

NOW Nobody's here but ourſelves, tell me truly and ſeriouſly, whether there is another *Soſia* within, who is the very Likeneſs of me?

ALC.

Away from me you Slave that's worthy ſuch a Maſter.

SOS.

I'm gone, if you command. [*Soſia* goes.

Scene

right; for it is a poſitive Command.

Scena VII.

ALCUMENA et *THESSALA.*

ALC.

NImis, ecastor, Facinus mirum est, qui illi conlibitum siet
Meo Viro, sic me insimulare (164) falsum Facinus tam malum.
Quicquid est, jam ex *Naucrate* Cognato id cognoscam meo.

Actus

164. *That is, says* Lambinus, in me confingere falsum Facinus.

Finis Actus secundi.

Scene VII.

ALCMENA and *THESSALA.*

ALC.

BY the Temple of *Caſtor* 'tis wonderful, that my Huſband ſhou'd be diſpos'd to accuſe me of ſuch a Crime ſo unjuſtly. Whatever is the Occaſion, I ſhall know from my Kinſman *Naucrates.*

Act

The End of the ſecond Act.

ACTUS III. SCENA I.

JUPITER. (165)

EGO ſum ille *Amphitruo*, cui eſt Servos *Soſia*,
Idem *Mercurius* qui ſit, quando commodum 'ſt,
In ſuperiore qui habito Coenaculo,
Qui interdum fio *Jupiter* quando lubet:
Nunc autem, quom extemplo Adventum adporto, ilico
Amphitruo fio, et Veſtitum inmuto meum.
Nunc huc Honoris (166) voſtri venio Gratia,
Ne hanc inchoatam tranſigam Comoediam:
Simul *Alcumenae*, quam Vir, inſontem Probri,
Amphitruo accuſat, veni, ut Auxilium feram;
Nam mea ſit Culpa, quod egomet contraxerim,
Si id *Alcumenae* innocenti huic expetat:
Nunc *Amphitruonem* memet, ut occepi ſemel,
Eſſe adſimulabo; atque in horum Familiam
Fruſtrationem hodie hic injiciam maxumam:
Poſt igitur demum faciam Res fiat palam;
Atque *Alcumenae* in Tempore Auxilium feram:
Faciamque ut, uno Foetu, et quod gravida eſt (167) Viro,
Et me quod gravida 'ſt, pariat ſine Doloribus.
Mercurium juſſi me continuo conſequi,
Si quid vellem imperare: nunc hanc adloquar.
[Videns *Alcumenam* venientem.

SCENA

165. *The firſt Scene is a Continuation of the Prologue, or rather another Prologue in the Character of* Jupiter.

166. Honoris *ſeems to be the wrong Word here, and what to ſubſtitute I know not. How can he ſay that he is come*

ACT III. SCENE I.

JUPITER. (165)

I'M that *Amphitryon*, whoſe Servant's *Soſia*,
The ſame that's *Mercury*, when he's requir'd;
My Habitation's in the upper Room,
And I am *Jove* as often as I will:
But now, when I deſcend to meet the Fair
I am *Amphitryon* ſoon, and change my Garb.
Now for the Sake of you I'm hither come,
That I may make this Comedy compleat:
I'm likewiſe come to bring *Alcmena* Aid,
Who is accus'd, tho guiltleſs, by her Huſband;
For 'twou'd be wrong to let a Fault of mine
Fall on the Head of innocent *Alcmena:*
Now, as I have begun, I will aſſume
Amphitryon's Form again; and I will ſoon
Throw all the Houſe into Perplexity:
But I will clear the whole Affair at laſt;
And I will bring *Alcmena* timely Aid:
I'll cauſe her to bring forth, at the ſame Birth,
Her Huſband's Son and mine without a Pang.
I order'd *Mercury* to follow ſoon,
To take my Orders: now I'll ſpeak to her.
[Seeing *Alcmena* coming.

SCENE

come for the Honour of the Spectators? He is come for their Delight.

167. EX *is underſtood here, and in the following Verſe, after* et. TAUBM.

Scena II.

ALCUMENA et JUPITER.

ALC.

DUrare nequeo in Aedibus, ita me Probri,
Stupri, Dedecoris, a Viro argutam (168) meo:
Ea quae ſunt facta infecta refert, ac clamitat;
Quae neque ſunt facta, neque ego in me admiſi, arguit;
Atque id me ſuſque (169) deque eſſe habituram putat:
Non, edepol, faciam; neque me perpetiar Probri
Falſo inſimulatam; quin ego illum aut deſeram,
Aut ſatisfaciat mihi, atque adjuret (170) inſuper
Nolle eſſe dicta, quae in me inſontem protulit.
[*Seorſim, non videns* Jovem.

JUP.

Faciundum eſt mihi illud, fieri quod illaec poſtulat,
Si me illam Amantem ad ſeſe ſtudeam recipere. (171)
Quando, ego quod feci, id Factum *Amphitruoni* obfuit,
Atque ille dudum meus Amor Negotium
Inſonti

---

168. *The ſame with* patiar. Taubm.

169. Suſque deque ferre, *and* Suſque deque habere, *ſays* A. Gellius, *ſignify to bear with an unruffled Temper, or to be indifferent about what happens.* Gronov.

170. *In*

Scene II.

ALCMENA, and *JUPITER*.

ALC.

I Can not ſtay in the Houſe, I'm forc'd to bear ſuch Accuſations, from my Huſband, of Diſhoneſty and Inchaſtity: he denys thoſe very Things which have been done, and is outrageous; and he inſiſts on what never was done, and what I never admited of; and he expects that I ſhou'd patiently endure all this: by the Temple of *Pollux* I will not; nor will I ſuffer myſelf to be wrongfully accus'd of Diſhoneſty; but I will leave him, unleſs he gives me Satisfaction, and ſwears (170) that he is ſorry for what he has ſay'd againſt my Innocence. [*To herſelf, not ſeeing* Jupiter.

JUP.

I muſt do what ſhe requires of me, if I wou'd meet with ſuch a Reception as a Lover deſires. Since what I have done is lay'd to *Amphitryon*'s Charge, and as my Love for her has brought ſome Difficultys on her

170. *In former Times they took an Oath that they had accuſed the innocent, and that wiped off the Infamy of the Accuſation.* Gronov.

171. *The Order of Conſtruction is thus,* ſi ſtudeam illam recipere ad ſeſe me Amantem. Douza.

Insonti exhibuit, nunc autem insonti mihi (172)
Illius Ira in hanc, et Maledicta, expetent.
[Seorsim.

ALC.

Et, eccum, video illum, qui me miseram arguit
Stupri, Dedecoris.
[Seorsim.

JUP.

Te volo, Uxor, conloqui:
Quo te avortisti? (173)

ALC.

Ita Ingenium meum est:
Inimicos semper osa sum obtuerier.

JUP.

Heja autem Inimicos!

ALC.

Sic est, vera praedico,
Nisi etiam hoc falso dici insimulaturus es.

JUP.

Nimis iracunda es. (174)

ALC.

Poti'n' es ut abstineas Manum?
Nam certo, si sis sanus, aut sapias satis,
Quam tu impudicam esse arbitrare et praedices,
Cum ea tu Sermonem, nec joco nec serio,
Tibi habeas, nisi sis stultior stultissumo.

JUP.

Si dixi, Nihilo magis es, neque esse arbitror;
Et id huc revorti, uti me purgarem tibi;
Nam numquam quicquam meo Animo fuit aegrius
Quam postquam audivi te esse iratam mihi.
Cur dixisti? Inquies, ego expediam tibi:

Non

172. Camerarius *gives* sonti mihi; *and* Scaliger *gives* in hunc *in the next Verse: the Reading which I give is according to the first Edition; and* Gronovius *judiciously defends it: what* Plautus *means by* Jupiter's *Innocence, says he, is only of the Reproaches and Anger of* Amphitryon: *it was not* Jupiter *that was angry with* Alcmena;

tho innocent, his Reſentment and Reproaches to her will now fall heavy on me who am innocent too.

[*To himſelf.*

ALC.

And, lo! I ſee the Perſon who accuſes me of Diſhoneſty and Shame. [*To herſelf.*

JUP.

Wife, I wou'd talk with you: why turn you from me?

ALC.

'Tis my Diſpoſition: I always hate to look at my Enemys.

JUP.

How! your Enemys!

ALC.

So it is, I ſpeak true, unleſs you'll pretend this to be falſe too.

JUP.

You are too ſevere.

ALC.

Can't you keep your Hand away? I am ſure, if you are not mad, if you have any Underſtanding, you'll not have any Converſation, in Jeſt or Earneſt, with one whom you believe and declare immodeſt, unleſs you are the greateſt of all Fools.

JUP.

If I ſay'd ſo, you are not the more ſo, nor do I think you ſuch; and therefore I'm return'd to clear myſelf to you; for never any Thing lay heavyer on my Mind than the Report of your Diſpleaſure. Why did you name it? You ſhall acknowledge that I clear

---

Alcmena; *nor was it he who reproached her*

173. *The common Reading is* quonam ted: *I follow the firſt Edition: and Mr.* De le Oeuvre *gives* quo te avertiſti?

174. Verecunda *is in the firſt Edition, and in* Gronovius's; *but* Lambinus *prefers* iracunda; *which is certainly more agreeable to the preſent Behaviour of* Alcmena,

Non, edepol, quo te esse inpudicam crederem;
Verum periclitatus Animum sum tuum,
Quid faceres, et quo Pacto id ferre induceres:
Equidem joco illa dixeram dudum tibi,
Ridiculi Causa: vel id (175) nunc rogato *Sosiam.*

A L C.

Quin huc adducis meum Cognatum *Naucratem,*
Testem quem dudum te adducturum dixeras
Te huc non venisse?

J U P.

Si quid dictum est per Jocum,
Non aequom est id te serio praevortier.

A L C.

Ego illud scio quod (176) doluerit Cordi meo.

J U P.

Per Dexteram (177) tuam te, *Alcumena,* oro, obsecro,
Da mihi hanc Veniam: ignosce, irata ne sies.

A L C.

Ego istaec feci Verba Virtute inrita:
Nunc quando Factis me inpudicis abstines,
Ab inpudicis Dictis avorti volo.
Valeas, tibi habeas Res tuas, reddas meas. (178)
Jube'n' mi' ire Comites? (179)

J U P.

Sanan' es?

A L C.

---

175. *All the Copys have* id hunc, *but surely wrong:* Sosia *is not present; for* Jupiter *soon after orders him to be called hither: I venture to give* nunc; *which certainly must be what the Poet wrote; for* hunc *is absolutely improper.*

176. Quam *is in all the Copys which I have seen; but I reckon this among the desperate Readings: I believe* quod *should be here; and then the Sense is right.* Alcmena *with Concern says,* I know that which grieves or pierces my Heart, *meaning* Amphitryon's *Treatment.*

177. *It*

myſelf to you: by *Pollux* I did not believe you immodeſt; I only try'd your Temper, to ſee what you wou'd do, and how you wou'd bear it: what I then ſay'd was but in Jeſt, and for the Sake of a Joke: do but aſk *Soſia* now.

ALC.

But why did you not bring my Couſin *Naucrates* here, whom you ſay'd you wou'd produce as a Witneſs that you came not hither before?

JUP.

It is not right in you to turn that which was ſpoke in Jeſt to Earneſt.

ALC.

I know that which pierces my Heart.

JUP.

By your right Hand, (177) *Alcmena*, I intreat you, I implore you, to admit me to you: forgive me, be no longer angry.

ALC.

My Virtue renders your Abuſes vain: now you acquit me of baſe Actions, I wiſh you cou'd free me from baſe Tongues. Farewel, keep what's your own, and give me back what's mine (178). You'll let my Women attend me (179)?

JUP.

Are you in your Senſes?

177. *It was uſual in ſolemn Adjurations to ſwear by the right Hand of the Perſon ſpoken to: ſo* Chryſis *adjures* Pamphilus *towards the End of the firſt Act of the* Andria *of* TERENCE, te ego per Dextram hanc oro; *and ſo* Horace,

Quod te per Genium, Dextramque Deoſque Penates,
Obſecro, et obteſtor. L. 1. Ep. 7. V. 94.

178. *This is according to the Laws of Divorce.*

179. *It was according to the Cuſtom that no Matron ſhould appear in Public without a Companion.*

A L C.

Si non jubes,
Ibo egomet; Comitem Pudicitiam duxero.

J U P.

Mane; Arbitratu tuo Jusjurandum dabo,
Me meam pudicam esse Uxorem (180) arbitrarier,
Id ego si fallo, tum te, summe *Juppiter*,
Quaeso, *Amphitruoni* ut semper iratus sies.

A L C.

Ah! propitius sit potius

J U P.

Confide fore;
Nam Jusjurandum verum te advorsum dedi:
Jam nunc irata non es.

A L C.

Non sum.

J U P.

Bene facis;
Nam in Hominum Aetate multa eveniunt hujusmodi,
Capiunt Voluptates, capiunt rursum Miserias,
Irae interveniunt, redeunt rursum in Gratiam;
Verum Irae si quae forte eveniunt hujusmodi,
Inter eos rursum si reventum in Gratiam est,
Bis tanto Amici sunt inter se quam prius.

A L C.

Primum caviſſe oportuit ne diceres;
Verum, eadem si iisdem purgas, mihi patiunda sunt.

J U P.

Jube vero Vasa (181) pura adornari mihi,
Ut quae aput Legionem Vota vovi, si Domum
Rediſſem salvos, ea ego exsolvam omnia.

A L C.

---

180. Jupiter *is represented here as a mere Quibbler, having Juno in Reserve.*

181. *The antient* Greeks *were strictly observant not to use any Thing devoted to pious Uses in any Act but in Acts of Devotion; and we find among the Precepts in the second Book*

ALC.

If you refuſe me then, I'll go alone; my Virtue will be my Companion.

JUP.

Stay; I'll ſubmit this Oath to your Arbitration, I believe my Wife to be truly virtuous (180), and if I deceive her in that, I beſeech you, almighty *Jove*, to pour down your everlaſting Wrath on *Amphitryon*.

ALC.

Ah! rather may he be propitious to you.

JUP.

Depend upon it he will; for I have taken a true and faithful Oath towards you: now ſurely your Anger's over.

ALC.

It is.

JUP.

That's well; for many Things of this Sort happen during the Life of Man, ſometimes Pleaſure is our Lot, ſometimes Miſery, Differences ſometimes happen, and Reconciliations again; but when Differences of this Kind happen ſo that Reconciliation is again made, the Friendſhip of thoſe Perſons becomes double what it was before.

ALC.

You ought to have been cautious how you ſpoke at firſt; but, if you acquit yourſelf thus, I ought to be patient.

JUP.

Order the ſacred Veſſels (181) to be prepar'd for me, that I may perform all thoſe Vows which I made in the Camp, if I ſhou'd return Home ſafe.

ALC.

Book of the Works *and* Days *of* Heſiod *the following Prohibition:*

The Bowl, from which you the Libation pour
To Heav'n, profane not in the ſocial Hour:
Who Things devote in vulgar Uſe employ,
Thoſe Men ſome dreadful Vengeance ſhall deſtroy.

ALC.

Ego istuc curabo.

JUP.

Evocate huc *Sosiam*:
Gubernatorem, qui in mea Navi fuit,
Blepharonem arcessat, qui nobiscum prandeat:
[*Clare.*
Is adeo inpransus ludificabitur,
Quom ego *Amphitruonem* Collo hinc obstricto traham.
[*Separatim.*

ALC.

Mirum quid solus secum secreto ille agat!
Atque aperiuntur Aedes: exit *Sosia.*

Scena III.

SOSIA, JUPITER, et ALCUMENA.

SOS.

Amphitruo, adsum; si quid Opus est, impera,
Imperium exsequar.

JUP.

Optume (182) advenis.

SOS.

Jam Pax est inter vos duos?
Nam, quia vos tranquillos video, gaudeo, et Volupe est mihi;
Atque ita Servom (183) par videtur Frugi sese instituere, Proinde

182. *The same with* opportune. Gronov. *Most opportunely is the Meaning.*

183. *The*

ALC.

That ſhall be my Care.

JUP.

Call *Soſia* hither: let him go for *Blepharo*, the Pilot of my Ship, that he may dine with us: [*Aloud.*] but *Soſia* ſhall be play'd off without a Dinner, and at the ſame Time I ſhall drag *Amphitryon* off by the Collar. [*Aſide.*

ALC.

I wonder what he's talking about to himſelf! The Doors open: here comes *Soſia*.

SCENE III.

SOSIA, JUPITER, and *ALCMENA.*

SOS.

I'M here, *Amphitryon*, ready to receive, and obey, your Commands.

JUP.

You are come moſt ſeaſonably.

SOS.

Is it Peace betwixt ye? For I'm glad to ſee ye both in good Humour, and it gives me Pleaſure; and it becomes a good Servant ſo to deport himſelf as to be as his

183. *The Conſtruction is,* Par videtur Servum Frugi ita ſe componere. TAUBM.

Proinde Heri ut ſint, ipſe item ſit, Voltum e Voltu comparet, (184)
Triſtis ſit, Heri ſi triſtes, hilarus ſit, ſi gaudeant:
Set age, reſponde, jam vos rediſtis in Concordiam?

JUP.

Derides, qui ſcis haec dudum me dixiſſe per Jocum.

SOS.

An id Joco dixiſti? Equidem ſerio ac vero ratus.

JUP.

Habui Expurgationem: facta Pax eſt.

SOS.

Optume eſt.

JUP.

Ego Rem divinam intus faciam, Vota quae ſunt. (185)

SOS.

Cenſeo. (186)

JUP.

Tu Gubernatorem a Navi huc evoca Verbis meis (187) *Blepharonem*, ut, Re divina facta, mecum prandeat.

SOS.

Jam hic ero, quom illic cenſebis eſſe me.

JUP.

Actutum huc redi. [Exit *Soſia*.

SCENA

---

184. *The Conſtruction is,* Vultum ſuum e Vultu Heri fingat et conformet. LAMBINUS.

185. Lambinus *ſays that our Poet changes the Number, according to the Cuſtom, and adds that* Rem Vota quae ſunt *is for* Rem quae vota eſt: *with great Difference to ſo learned a Critic, I am inclined to think that he has*

his Maſter is, to ſet his Countenance by his Maſter's, to be ſad if he is ſad, to be merry if he is cheerful: but tell me, are ye reconcil'd to one another.

JUP.

You're jocular, you know what I ſay'd juſt now was but in Jeſt.

SOS.

In Jeſt did you ſpeak it? I really thought you ſerious and in Earneſt.

JUP.

I have clear'd myſelf: Peace is made.

SOS.

Beſt of all.

JUP.

I've an Offering to make within, according to my Vows.

SOS.

So I perceive. (186)

JUP.

Go you and in my Name deſire *Blepharo* the Pilot to leave the Ship, to come hither and dine with me after the Sacrifice is over.

SOS.

I'll be here again before you'll think I can.

JUP.

Come back as quick as you can. [*Soſia* goes.

SCENE

---

has miſtaken Vota *the Subſtantive for* vota *the Adjective, and that the Conſtruction is thus,* faciam Rem divinam, faciam Vota quae ſunt facta.

186. *By* cenſeo Sosia *is arch on* Rem divinam faciam, *making it allude to an Act of Gallantry.*

187. *That is* meo Nomine. Gronov.

Scena IV.

ALCUMENA et *JUPITER.*

ALC.

NUmquid vis quin abeam jam intro, ut adparentur quibus Opu' 'st?

JUP.

I sane; et, quantum potes (188), fac parata sint omnia.

ALC.

Quin veni (189), quando vis, intro: faxo haut quicquam sit Morae.

JUP.

Recte loquere, et proinde diligentem ut Uxorem decet. [Exit *Alcumena.*

Scena

188. *The common Reading is* potest; *the first Edition has* potes; *which is the better Reading.*

189. Venis

Scene IV.

ALCMENA and *JUPITER*.

ALC.

WOU'D you have me go in now, that what is neceſſary may be prepar'd?

JUP.

Yes, go; and let ev'ry Thing be ready to the beſt of your Pow'r.

ALC.

Well, come in when you will: I'll take Care that there ſhall be no Delay.

JUP.

You ſpeak well, and as becomes a careful Wife.

[*Alcmena* goes.

189. Venis *is the general Reading; but* veni, *which is in ſome Copys, is better* Latin.

Scena V.

JUPITER.

JAM hi ambo, et Servos et Hera, fruſtra ſunt duo,
Qui me *Amphitruonem* rentur eſſe: errant probe. (190)
Nunc tu divine (191) fac huc adſis *Soſia*;
Audis quae dico, tametſi praeſens non ades:
Fac *Amphitruonem*, advenientem, ab Aedibus
Ut abigas quovis Pacto; fac commentus ſies. (192)
Volo deludi illum, dum cum hac uſuraria
Uxore nunc mihi morigero (193): haec curata ſient.
Fac (194) ſis, proinde adeo ut me velle intellegis,
Atque ut miniſtres mihi, mihi cum ſacrificem. (195)

190. Plane falluntur. Gronov. *I differ from* Gronovius, *and believe that* Jupiter *is excuſing their Error, as it was not a voluntary one, tho I am ſenſible that* probe *is often uſed in the ſame Meaning as* plane, recte, *and* bene, *as in the* 14*th Verſe of the next Scene, and the* 22*d Verſe.*

191. *That is* Mercury.

192. *That is*, fac callide excogitaveris. Lambinus.

193. *That is*, Genio meo obſequor. Douza.

194. Fac *comes into this Speech as often as any-where in the ſame Number of Lines: it is the ſame as* cura *here, and*

Finis Actus tertii. (196)

196. *Moſt Editions end the third Act where the next Scene ends; but it is evident from theſe Words in* Mercury's *next Speech* ſet eccum Amphitruonem, advenit,

SCENE V.

JUPITER.

NOW both Servant and Miſtreſs are impos'd upon, by ſuppoſing me to be *Amphitryon:* their Miſtake is an honeſt one. Now divine (190) *Sosia* be ready here; you hear what I ſay, tho you are not preſent: take Care by any Means to prevent *Amphitryon*'s Entrance into the Houſe; be mindful. I wou'd have you play him off, while I indulge myſelf with this borrow'd Wife: let this be well look'd after. Take Care, and conform to what you apprehend to be my Will, and aſſiſt me, while I ſacrifice to myſelf. (195)

---

and in other Places. Fac (vel cura) ut abigas Amphitruonem ab Aedibus: *but notwithſtanding the frequent Uſe of* ſis *after a Verb of the imperative Mood, and the great Authority for uſing it ſo, I can not think that it could ever have been eſteemed an Elegance.*

195. *The Antients uſed to offer a Sacrifice before they entered on any Affair of Importance: and to this Cuſtom our Poet makes* Jupiter *here allude, tho ludicrouſly: this Cuſtom appears from many Paſſages in* Greek *and* Roman *Authors. Part of this Note is taken from my Edition of* Terence, Eun. *Act* 3, *Sc.* 8.

The End of the third Act. (196)

---

nit, *that the next Act begins with* Mercury's *Speech; which is addreſſed to the Spectators in the Manner of a Prologue, as is* Jupiter's *Speech in the Beginning of this Act.*

ACTUS IV. SCENA I.

MERCURIUS.

COncedite, atque abſcedite, omnes de Via decedite;
Nec quiſquam tam audax fuat Homo qui obviam obſiſtat mihi:
Nam mihi quidem, hercle (197), qui minus liceat Deo minitarier
Populo, ni decedat mihi, quam Servolo in Comoediis?
Ille Navem ſalvam nunciat, aut irati Adventum Senis;
Ego ſum *Jovis* (198) Dicto audiens, ejus Juſſu nunc huc me adfero:
Quamobrem mi' magis par eſt Via decedere et concedere.
Pater vocat me, eum ſequor, ejus dicto Imperio ſum audiens:
Ut Filium bonum Patri eſſe oportet, itidem ego ſum Patri:
Amanti ſubparaſitor, hortor, adſto, admoneo, gaudeo.
Si quid Patri volupe 'ſt, Voluptas ea mihi multo maxuma 'ſt:
Amat, ſapit; recte facit, Animo quando obſequitur ſuo;
Quod omnes Homines facere oportet, dum id Modo fiat bono.
Nunc *Amphitruonem* volt deludi meus Pater; faxo probe;
Jam hic deludetur, Spectatores, vobis ſpectantibus.
Capiam

197. Plautus *is a little too early in his Oath here: he makes* Mercury *ſwear by* Hercules *before* Hercules *was born; for* Hercules *is the Fruit of* Jupiter's *Amour with* Alcmena: *this is not the only Oath in this Play uſed againſt*

ACT IV. SCENE I.

MERCURY.

MAke Way, give Room, let ev'ry one make Way;
And be not one ſo bold to ſtop me now:
By *Hercules* (197) why ſhou'd not I, a God,
Uſe the ſame Freedom, as a Slave in Comedys,
To threat the People if they make not Way?
He brings the Tydings of a Ship arriv'd,
Or of th' Approach of an incens'd old Man;
I am *Jove*'s Meſſenger, and now am come
Hither by his Command: it is more juſt
Therefore that they ſhou'd clear the Way for me.
My Father calls, I follow, and obey:
What a good Son ſhou'd be I'm to my Sire:
I ſooth him in his Love, I urge him on,
I'm always near, adviſe him, and rejoice.
If my great Sire poſſeſſes a Delight,
The Pleaſure is the greater then to me:
He loves, is therefore wiſe; and he does right,
When he's indulgent to his Heart's Deſire;
Which all Men ſhou'd, with a good Grace who can.
My Sire will have *Amphitryon* now play'd off;
I'll do it finely; he ſhall be beguil'd
Juſt now, Spectators, here before your Eyes.

gainſt Chronology, for there are Pol; Aedepol, *&c.*

198. Jovi *is the vulgar Reading:* Jovis *is in the firſt Edition, and the right Word I believe:* ego ſum audiens Dicto (i.e. Mandato) Jovis: *and Mr.* De le Oeuvre, *who is ſeldom accurate in critical Points, gives* Jovis.

Capiam Coronam (199) mihi in Caput; adſimulabo me eſſe ebrium;
Atque illuc ſurſum aſcendero; inde optume ciſpellam (200) Virum:
De ſupero, quom hic acceſſerit, faciam ut ſit madidus ſobrius; (201)
Deinde ille actutum ſufferet ſuus Servos Poenas *Seſia:*
Eum feciſſe ille hodie arguet quae ego fecero hic: quid id mea? (202)
Meo me aequom eſt morigerum Patri, ejus Studio ſervire addecet:
Set eccum *Amphitruonem*; advenit: jam ille hic deludetur probe,
Siquidem vos voltis auſcultando Operam dare.
Ibo intro, Ornatum (203) capiam, qui potius decet:
Dein ſurſum aſcendam in Tectum, ut illum hinc prohibeam.

Scena

---

199. *A Chaplet ſeems to have been as neceſſary at a drinking Bout among the Antients as the Wine itſelf.* Ariſtophanes, *at the End of the 4th Scene of the 4th Act of his* Plutus, *makes an old Coquette ſay of her quondam Gallant, whom ſhe ſees coming,* he ſeems to be going to a Revelling: *to which* Chremulus, *an elderly Man, anſwers* φαινεται. Στεφανον γε &c. he appears ſo; for he has a Garland &c. *hence it is evident to have been a Cuſtom at* Athens. Anacreon *ſeldom calls for a Bowl without requiring a Chaplet at the ſame Time: and the* Romans *followed the* Greeks *in this, as in many other Cuſtoms: when* Horace *deſcribes* Teucer *(who was indeed a* Greek) *exhilerated with Wine, he forgets not to place the Chaplet on his Brow:*

Teucer Salamina Patremque
Cum fugeret, tamen uda Lyæo
Tempora populea fertur vinxiſſe Corona,
Sic triſtes affatus Amicos. *Lib.* 1. *Od.* 7.

When from his Sire and Salamis *he fled,*
Crowning his booſy Brows Teucer *is ſay'd*
Thus to have cheer'd his melancholly Friends.

In

I'll clap a Chaplet (199) on my Head, and act
The drunken Man; and then I'll mount up Stairs,
And drive effectually the Husband hence:
Soon as he comes I'll send him from above
Liquor enough, such as shall keep him sober;
For which his Servant *Sosia* shall be punish'd:
What I shall do will soon be lay'd on him:
What's that to me? I must obey my Sire,
And render my best Service to his Pleasure:
But lo, *Amphitryon* comes: I now will make
Good Sport with him, if you'll Attention lend.
I'll in, and dress me in my proper Garb:
Then I'll ascend above, and drive him hence.

Scene

In the 6th Eclogue of Virgil Silenus *had drop'd his Chaplet from his Head in his drunken Fit. The Chaplet is* Ornatus qui potius decet *which our Poet mentions a little lower. This is partly from my Notes on the 6th Eclogue of* Virgil.

200. Cispellam, *says* Turnebus, *is for* repellam; *and he thus interprets the Word,* quod, qui repellitur, citra regredi cogitur, non ultra progredi permittitur. Cispellam *should not be sayed to be for* repellam, *because it is another Word, tho of the same, or near the same, signification.*

201. *Mr.* Echard *has translated* madidus sobrius dry drunk, *which is a very odd Construction, and foreign from the Sense: what Connection is there betwixt* dry drunk, *which really means Nothing, and* being moist without, and dry within, *which is the Joke intended by* Mercury, *who designs to sluice him?*

202. *The first Edition has* quid est mea? *The Construction is,* quid id est mea Parte?

203. *That is a Chaplet. The next Verse concludes the Prologue, or Prologues, of this Play.*

Scena II.

AMPHITRUO.

Naucratem (204) quem convenire volui, in Navi non erat;
Neque Domi, neque in Urbe, invenio quemquam qui illum viderit:
Nam omnis Plateas perreptavi, Gymnasia, et Myropolia, (205)
Aput Emporium (206), atque in Macello, in Palaestra (207), atque in Foro,
In Medicinis, in Tonstrinis, aput omnis Aedis sacras. 5
Sum

204. *This is, after the Manner of the* Greeks, *the accusative Case for the nominative.* Taubm. *This is no such Thing: it is the accusative, after the Manner of the* Greeks, *but not for the nominative, as I have shewed in my Note on the 12th Verse of the Prologue to* Phormio *in my Edition of* Terence; *Part of which I shall transcribe here: in the 3d Verse of the Prologue to* Andria, *and in the twelfth of the Prologue to* Phormio, " *we see* Fabulas *where* Fabulæ *would seem to be the* " *more proper* Latin, *according as the Words stand in* " *both Places: but, as Dr.* Clarke *has judiciously ob-* " *served, in his Note on the following Passage in* Ho- " mer, *this Manner of writing is frequent in* Greek " *and* Latin *Authors. The whole Note is so just a* " *Piece of Criticism, that I can not avoid giving a* " *Translation of the Substance of it here.*

" Ανδρομαχη, Θυγατηρ μεγαλητορος Ηετιωνος,
" Ηετιων ος εναιεν Υποπλακω υλησσση.

" Ηετιων is not put here for Ηετιωνος, by that most

" silly

SCENE II.

AMPHITRYON.

I Cou'd not meet *Naucrates* on Board o'Ship as I wish'd; nor cou'd I find any one at Home, nor in all the Town, who had seen him: I have been in Search of him thro ev'ry Street, at the Ring, at the Perfumer's, at the Exchange, at the Market, at the Fencing-School, and at the Forum, at the Apothecary's, and Barber's, Shops, and all the Temples. I have tir'd myself

---

" silly Figure which they call Antiptosis: Ηετιων ος, " *Eëtion qui*, is the same as ος τις Ηετιων, *qui quidem* " *Eëtion*, that is, which *Eëtion*: the same Manner of " writing we find among the Latins, as, in *Terence*,

" *Populo ut placerent, quas fecisset Fabulas:*

" the Construction of which is, *ut, quas Fabulas fe-* " *cisset, placerent Populo:* so in VIRGIL, *Urbem quam* " *statuo, vestra est*; the Syntax of which is, *quam* " *Urbem statuo, vestra est.* Æn. *L.* 1. *V.* 577." *So here, non erat* Naucrates *in Navi, quem* Naucratem *volui convenire.*

205. Suetonius *calls this in* LATIN Tabernas unguentarias. GRONOV. *which means in both Languages the Shops of what we call* Perfumers.

206. *The Place where the Merchants assembled.* BOXHORN.

207. Gymnasium *and* Palæstra *are generally used for the Places where manly Exercises were practiced: I have distinguished them here, calling the first a Ring for Wrestlers, and the other the Fencing-School.*

Sum defessus quaeritando, nusquam invenio *Naucratem:*
Nunc Domum ibo, atque ex Uxore hanc Rem pergam exquirere,
Quis fuerit, quem propter Corpus suum Stupri conpleverit;
Nam me, quam illam Quaestionem inquisitam hodie amittere, 9
Mortuum satius est: set Aedis occluserunt: eugepae! (208)
Pariter, hoc fit, atque ut alia Facta sunt: feriam Foris:
Aperite hoc: heus, ecquis hic est? Ecquis hoc aperit Ostium?

208. *An Interjection of Joy and Approbation; but it is here used ironically.* Lambin.

Scena III.

MERCURIUS et *AMPHITRUO.*

MER.

QUIS ad Foris est?

AM.

Ego sum.

MER.

Quid, ego sum?

AM.

Ita loquor.

MER.

Tibi *Juppiter*
Dique omnes irati certo sint (209), qui sic frangas Foris. *AM.*

209. *Every Edition has* sunt; *which can not be the Word. I venture to put* sint *in the Room of it; for it is an*

myſelf in looking for him, and have found no *Naucrates*: I'll now go Home, and endeavour to inform myſelf of this Affair from my Wife, and find out who it was to whom, like a Proſtitute, ſhe gave the Poſſeſſion of her Perſon; for I had better dy than neglect this Enquiry now: but they have faſten'd the Doors: O! fine (208)! This is of a Piece with the Reſt of their Actions: I'll beat them open: open the Doors: ye-o! who's within? Is there any Body to open the Door?

SCENE III.

MERCURY and *AMPHITRYON.*

MER.

WHO's at the Door?

AM.

I am.

MER.

I am, who is?

AM.

I, I ſay.

MER.

May the Anger of *Jove* and all the Gods o'ertake you for banging the Doors ſo.

AM.

an Imprecation of Mercury's; *and* vivas *in the next Speech but one anſwers in the ſame Tenſe.*

A M.

Quo Modo? (210)

M E R.

Eo Modo ut profecto vivas Aetatem miser.

A M.

Sosia.

M E R.

Ita sum *Sosia*, nisi me esse oblitum existumas: Quid nunc vis?

A M.

Sceleste, at etiam quid velim id tu me rogas?

M E R.

Ita rogo: pene effregisti, fatue, Foribus Cardines: An Foris censebas nobis publicitus (211) praeberier? Quid me adspectas, stolide? Quid nunc vis tibi? Aut quis tu es Homo?

A M.

Verbero, etiam quis ego sim me rogitas? Ulmorum Acheruns, (212)
Quem, pol, ego hodie ob istaec Dicta faciam ferventem Flagris?

M E R.

Prodigum te fuisse oportet olim in Adolescentia.

A M.

Quidum?

M E R.

Quia senecta (213) Aetate a me mendicas Malum.

A M.

---

210. Amphitryon *asks* quo Modo, in what Manner? *That is*, in what Manner bang them? MERCURY *answers* eo Modo, *alluding to his Imprecation, and disregarding the Meaning of* Amphitryon's *Question*.

211. Id est, ex Aerario publico suppeditari. TAUBM.

212. *Whose Back consumes as many Elm-rods as* Acheron *devours Souls*. Taubm.

213. Senecta

A M.

In what Manner?

M E R.

In ſuch a Manner as to make all your Life to come miſerable.

A M.

Soſia.

M E R.

I am *Soſia* indeed, unleſs you think that I have forgot myſelf: what wou'd you have?

A M.

You Raſcal, do you aſk me what I wou'd have?

M E R.

Yes I do aſk you: you have almoſt broke the Hinges of the Doors, you Fool: do you think that our Doors are made at the Expence of the Public? What do you ſtare ſo at me for, you Booby? What wou'd you have? Who are you?

A M.

You Hang-dog, do you aſk who I am? You, you Whiping-poſt, whom, by *Pollux*, I will preſently make ſmart for what you've ſay'd?

M E R.

Surely you muſt have been a Prodigal in your Youth.

A M.

Why ſo?

M E R.

Becauſe you beg a Trifle of me in your old Age.

---

213. Senecta Aetate, *for* ſenili, *after* Plautus's *Manner, who often joins one Subſtantive to another like an Adjective.* GRONOV. Mercury's *Joke here is a very villainous one:* Malum *is* Latin *both for an* Apple *and an* Ill: *whether the Poet deſigned to make* Soſia *play on the Word or not, it is one of the worſt of the bad Repartees in the Play: I am inclined to think that I have mended the Joke in my Tranſlation.*

A M.

Cum Cruciatu tuo istaec hodie, Verna, Verba funditas.

M E R.

Sacrusico ego tibi.

A M.

Qui?

M E R.

Quia enim te macto (214) Infortunio. (215)

[Exit *Mercurius.*

Scena

---

214. *When the Antients poured Wine, Franckincense, &c. on the Victim, it was sayed to be* magis aucta, *of which* macta *is a Contraction:* te macto Infortunio *is therefore a tolerable Joke after* sacrusico; *for I doubt not but that the Poet's Intent here is that* Mercury *should keep his Word, where he says, in the first Speech of this Act,* faciam ut sit madidus sobrius; Mercury *therefore, as soon as he has sayed* te macto Infortunio, *sluices* Amphitryon *from above, and runs away.*

215. *Be-*

A M.

You ſhall ſoon ſuffer, Slave, and ſeverely, for what you've ſay'd.

M E R.

I make an Offering to you.

A M.

Of what?

M E R.

Of ill Luck which I here pour (214) upon you.

[*Mercury* goes.

---

215. *Betwixt this and the next Scene is a large Chaſm, that has been filled up by ſome later Writer with an hundred and ſeventy-five Verſes, which I give neither an Edition nor Tranſlation of, becauſe they are univerſally agreed to be ſuppoſititious, and what* Lambinus *and other judicious Critics think but a bad Imitation of our Poet, and of which one hundred and ſeventy-five Verſes I find not one in the firſt Edition of* Plautus: *what I propoſe is to give an Edition and Tranſlation of what remains of our Author, and not of the Imitators of him.*

Scena IV. (216)

BLEPHARO, AMPHITRUO, et *JUPITER.*

BLE.

VOS inter vos partite; ego abeo; mihi Negotium eſt:
Neque ego umquam uſquam tanta Mira me vidiſſe cenſeo.

AM.

Blepharo, quaeſo ut Advocatus mihi adſis, neve abeas.

BLE.

Vale.
Quid Opu' 'ſt me Advocato, qui utri ſim Advocatus neſcio?

JUP.

Intro hinc eo: *Alcumena* parturit.
[Exeunt *Jupiter* et *Blepharo.*

Scena

216. *The Reader may be aſſured that betwixt this and the preceding Scene* Plautus *had introduced* Jupiter *and* Amphitryon *giving their Proofs of each being* Amphitryon,

SCENE IV. (216)

BLEPHARO, AMPHITRYON, and *JUPITER.*

BLE.

YE muſt determine betwixt yourſelves; I'm going; I have Bus'neſs to mind: I think I never ſaw any Thing ſo ſurpiſing in my Life.

AM.

Blepharo, I intreat you to be my Advocate, and not to leave me.

BLE.

Farewel. How can I be an Advocate, who know not which Cauſe to defend?

JUP.

I am going in: *Alcmena*'s in Labour.

[*Jupiter* and *Blepharo* go.

tryon, *and thoſe Proofs ſo ſtrong on both Sides that* Blepharo, *who is here brought as an Arbitrator, knows not which to pronounce the real* Amphitryon.

Scena V.

AMPHITRUO.

Perii miſer!
Quid ago (217), quem Advocati jam atque Amici deſerunt?
Numquam, edepol, me inultus iſtic ludificabit, quiſquis eſt;
Nam jam ad Regem recta (218) me ducam, Reſque ut facta eſt eloquar:
Ego, pol, illum ulciſcar hodie *Theſſalum* (219) Veneficum,
Qui perverſe perturbavit Familiae Mentem meae:
Set ubi ille 'ſt? Intro, edepol, abiit, credo, ad Uxorem meam.
Qui me *Thebis* alter vivit miſerior? Quid nunc agam,
Quem omnes mortales ignorant, et ludificant, ut lubet?
Certum 'ſt; introrumpam in Aedibus, ubi quemquam Hominem adſpexero,
Sive Ancillam ſive Servom, ſive Uxorem ſive Adulterum,
Seu Patrem ſive Avom, videbo, obtruncabo in Aedibus:
Neque me *Juppiter*, neque Di omnes id prohibebunt, ſi volent,
Quin ſic faciam uti conſtitui: pergam in Aedibus nunc jam.

217. Quid ego *in moſt Editions*, quid ago *in the firſt; which I think preferable, as ſoon after* quid nunc agam.

218. Via

Finis Actus quarti.

SCENE V.

AMPHITRYON.

O! Wretch undone! What can I do, when my own Friends and Advocates forſake me? Whoe'er he is, by the Temple of *Pollux*, he ſhall not thus abuſe me unreveng'd; for I will go directly to the King, and relate the Affair exactly as it is to him: by *Pollux*, I'll be ſoon reveng'd on that *Theſſalian* (219) Sorcerer, who has perverted the Minds of my Family: but where is he? By the Temple of *Pollux*, I believe he's gone in to my Wife. Lives there in *Thebes* a greater Wretch than I? What can I do now, whom all deny, and make their Sport, as they're inclin'd? 'Tis reſolv'd; I'll burſt into the Houſe, where whomſoever I behold, whether Maid or Man Servant, Wife or Gallant, Father or Grandfather, I'll ſlay them: nor ſhall *Jupiter*, nor all the Gods if they combine together, prevent the Execution of this my Reſolution: I'll go into the Houſe directly.

218. Via *underſtood.*

219. Theſſaly *was remarkable above all other Parts of* Greece *for Pretenders of that Sort.*

The End of the fourth Act.

ACTUS V. SCENA I.

BROMIA et AMPHITRUO.

BROM.

[*Seorsim, non videns* AMPHITRUONEM.

(220) SPES atque Opes Vitae meae jacent ſepultae (221) in Pectore:
Neque ulla 'ſt Confidentia jam meo in Corde, quin amiſerim,
Ita mihi videntur omnia, Mare, Terra, Coelum, conſequi,
Jam ut opprimar, ut enicer. Me miſeram! quid agam neſcio,
Ita tanta Mira in Aedibus ſunt facta. Vae miſerae mihi!
Animo male 'ſt (222). Aquam velim, conrupta ſum, atque abſumta ſum:
Caput dolet; neque audio, neque Oculis proſpicio ſatis:
Nec (223) me miſerior Faemina 'ſt, neque ulla videatur magis,
Ita Herae meae hodie contigit; nam, ubi parturit, Deos ſibi invocat:

Strepitus,

220. *The firſt Edition has* Dapes; *which carrys a Conceit, but a groſs one, with it, if we ſuppoſe old* Bromia *to have been gorging herſelf when it began to thunder and lighten; but* Spes *is the Word received by the beſt Editors, and is the better Word.*

221. Sepultae, *ſays* Gronovius, *is the ſame with* exſtinctae; *but* ſepultae *is a ſtronger Word: with* Dapes

ACT V. SCENE. I.

BROMIA and *AMPHITRYON.*

BROM.

[*To herſelf, not ſeeing* AMPHITRYON.

THE Hopes and Means of my Safety are ſunk within me: Nothing is left to ſupport my Heart, but Ruin muſt enſue, ev'ry Thing, Sea, Earth, and Heaven, ſeem to conſpire my Miſery and Deſtruction. O! wretched me! What to do I know not, ſuch Prodigys have happen'd in our Houſe. Alas! alas! my Mind's diſtracted. I want ſome Water, I'm ſick, I'm faint: my Head akes; and I can neither hear, nor ſee, well: there is not, nor can there be, a more wretched Woman than myſelf, ſuch Accidents happen'd juſt now to my Miſtreſs; for, when ſhe was in Labour, ſhe invok'd the Gods: ſuch Rumbling, and

---

pes *the Conſtruction is ſimply* ſepultae.

222. *The Adverb here is uſed as* Malum *a Subſtantive, as we may ſay in* ENGLISH it is an Evil to my Mind, *or* it goes badly with me.

223. Neque *is the common Reading*; nec *is in the firſt Edition: I chuſe* nec, *for the Sake of avoiding* neque *coming ſo often together.*

Strepitus, Crepitus, Sonitus, Tonitrus, ut ſubito ut propere ut vălide tonuit! (224).
Ubi quiſque inſtiterat, concidit Crepitu: ibi neſcio quis maxuma
Voce exclamat, ALCUMENA, *adeſt Auxilium, ne time: Et tibi, et tuis, propitius Coeli Cultor advenit:*
Exſurgite, inquit, *qui Terrore meo occidiſtis prae Metu.*
Ut jacui, exſurgo: ardere cenſui Aedis, ita tum confulgebant:
Ibi me inclamat *Alcumena*; jam ea Res me Horrore afficit;
Herilis (225) praevortit Metus: ocius accurro, ut ſciſcam quid velit;
Atque illam geminos Filios (226) Pueros peperiſſe conſpicor;
Neque noſtrum quiſquam ſenſimus, quom peperit,
Neque praevidimus: (227) ſet quid hoc? Quis hic eſt Senex,
Qui ante Aedis noſtras ſic jacet? Numnam hunc percuſſit *Juppiter?*
Credo edepol; nam (proh! *Juppiter!*) ſepultus eſt, quaſi ſit mortuus:

Ibo,

---

224. Plautus, *I doubt not, intended in this Verſe to expreſs the Confuſion of the Elements, and of the Family on this Occaſion, and the Volubility of a prating old Woman's Tongue.*

225. *The learned* Lambinus *well interprets this: the Meaning is, ſays he,* plus valet, apud me, ALCUMENAE Metus quam meus, ALCMENA's Concern more affects me than my own.

226. *This Paſſage has paſſed without any Notice taken of it by the Critics. What are* Filios Pueros? *If ſhe brought forth Sons, they were certainly Boys: but* Bromia *means here that they are larger than ordinary; for* Puer *without any Epithet means a grown Lad, as our Poet uſes it in various Places: in the firſt Act of* Curculio, *Scene the 1ſt, Verſe the 9th, ſays* Palinurus

to

and Grumbling, and Flaſhing, and Claſhing, and how ſuddenly, how faſt, and how terribly, it thunder'd! when ev'ry one that was ſtanding fell flat down at the Noiſe: then a loud Voice, I know not whoſe, cry'd out, ALCMENA, *Aſſiſtance is near, fear not: the Ruler of Heaven is come to you and to your Family propitious: ariſe,* ſays he, *ye who fell thro the Terror and Dread of me.* I aroſe from the Place where I lay: I thought that the Houſe was in Flames, it ſhin'd ſo bright: then *Alcmena* call'd for me; at which I was horribly affected; for I was more concern'd about my Miſtreſs's Condition than my own: I ran as faſt as poſſible, that I might know what ſhe wanted; and I found her deliver'd of two Sons, and jolly Boys they are; which none of our Family, when ſhe was deliver'd, diſcover'd, or perceiv'd any Thing of: but what's this? What old Man is this here, who lys thus before our Door? Has *Jupiter* thunder-ſtruck him? By the Temple of *Pollux* I believe ſo; for, O! *Jove*, he's lay'd out as if he was dead:

---

to PHÆDROMUS, tute tibi Puer es, you are your own Servant or Attendant: *and ſo* Horace *uſes it*, Perſicos odi, Puer, Apparatus. *Lib.* 1. *Ode* 38: *and our Poet uſes the Word* Puella *likewiſe for a mature Woman in the* 4*th Scene of the ſecond Act of* Ciſtellaria. *Agreeable to this Conſtruction is* Hercules *deſcribed, by* Theocritus, *in his Cradle: and what* Bromia *ſays ſoon after, in her Deſcription of the Children, is agreeable to my Conſtruction.*

227. *The late Editions of our Poet begin this Verſe with* ſet; *which makes the preceding Verſe, ending with* praevidimus, *too long for a* Trimeter, *and this too ſhort: the firſt Edition has both Verſes as I here give them: according to which Diviſion they both ſcan as* Trimeters.

Ibo, et cognoſcam quiſquam eſt: *Amphitruo* hic quidem eſt Herus meus.
Amphitruo!

A M.

Perii!

B R O M.

Surge.

A M.

Interii!

B R O M.

Cedo Manum.

A M.

Quis me tenet?

B R O M.

Tua *Bromia* Ancilla.

A M.

Totus timeo, ita me increpuit *Juppiter:* Nec ſecus eſt quam ſi ab *Acheronte* (228) veniam: ſed quid tu foras
Egreſſa es?

B R O M.

Eadem nos Formido timidas Terrore inpulit.
In Aedibus, ubi tu habitas, nimia Mira vidi (229), vae mihi,
Amphitruo, ita mihi Animus etiam nunc abeſt.

A M.

Agedum expedi. (230)
Sci'n' me tuum eſſe Herum *Amphitruonem?*

B R O M.

Scio.

A M.

---

228. Acheron *is one of the infernal Rivers, and is here put for the infernal Regions thro which it flows, or for Death itſelf.*

229. Gronovius, *and moſt Editors, place a full Stop after* vidi; *which is wrong: the Senſe is as I have tranſlated it.*

230. *The*

dead: I'll go and learn who he is: it is certainly my Maſter *Amphitryon.——Amphitryon!*

A M.

Ruin'd!

B R O M.

Get up.

A M.

Undone!

B R O M.

Give me your Hand.

A M.

Who holds me?

B R O M.

Your Maid *Bromia.*

A M.

Ev'ry Part of me trembles, *Jupiter* has ſo terrify'd me: and I am juſt as if I now aroſe from the dead: but why are you come out?

B R O M.

We were terrify'd in the ſame Manner. I ſaw ſo many Prodigys in your Houſe that, alas, *Amphitryon*, I am even now depriv'd of my Senſes.

A M.

Go on, proceed. Do you know me to be your Maſter *Amphitryon?*

B R O M.

Yes I do.

230. *The Senſe here is the ſame as* dic actutum. BOXHORN. Echard *tranſlates it*, come, let's walk with ye: *he might as properly have ſayed* come, let's ly with you. *Mr.* De l'Oeuvre *in his Edition*, in Uſum Delphinis, *explains it rightly thus*, explica Rem.

A M.

Vide (231) etiam nunc.

B R O M.

Scio.

A M.

Haec ſola ſanam Mentem geſtat meorum Familiarium.

B R O M.

Immo omnes ſani ſunt profecto.

A M.

At me Uxor inſanum facit
Suis foedis Factis.

B R O M.

At ego faciam tu idem ut aliter praedicas, *Amphitruo*, piam (232) et pudicam eſſe tuam Uxorem ut ſcias:
De ea Re Signa atque Argumenta paucis Verbis eloquar.
Omnium primum *Alcumena* geminos peperit Filios.

A M.

Ai'n' tu Geminos?

B R O M.

Geminos.

A M.

Di me ſervant!

B R O M.

Sine me dicere,
Ut ſcias tibi tuaeque Uxori Deos eſſe omnes propitios.

A M.

Loquere.

B R O M.

Poſtquam parturire hodie Uxor occepit tua,
Ubi (233) Utero exorti Dolores, ut ſolent Puerperae,
Invocat

---

231. Gronovius *and other Editors give* vide'n' etiam nunc? *The firſt Edition has it as I give it; which is certainly the right Reading.* Look again, *ſays* Amphitryon, *that is,* ſee that you are ſure.

232. *Piety includes all the Offices of Virtue and Humanity,*

A M.

Look again now.

B R O M.

I know you.

A M.

This is the only Perſon of my Family that has her Senſes.

B R O M.

Indeed they all have their Senſes.

A M.

But my Wife deprives me of mine by her baſe Actions.

B R O M.

But I'll make you ſpeak otherwiſe of her, *Amphitryon*, and I'll tell you what ſhall make you confeſs her to be your pious and chaſt Wife: of which I'll give you ſufficient Arguments and Proofs in few Words. Firſt of all *Alcmena* has brought forth two Sons.

A M.

Two ſay you?

B R O M.

Two.

A M.

The Gods protect me!

B R O M.

Let me ſpeak, that you may know how favourable all the Gods are to you and to your Wife.

A M.

Speak.

B R O M.

When your Spouſe begun to be in Labour, and the uſual Pains came upon her, ſhe invok'd the Aſſiſtance

manity, as Duty to a Huſband, a Parent, and to Children; and in that Senſe Virgil *frequently uſes it in the* Aeneis.

233. Gronovius *and other Editors have* ibi: *the firſt Edition has* ubi; *which is much preferable.*

Invocat Deos inmortales, ut ſibi Auxilium ferant,
Manibus (234) puris, Capite (235) operto: ibi continuo contonat
Sonitu maxumo, Aedis primo ruere rebamur tuas:
Aedes totae confulgebant tuae, quaſi eſſent aureae.

A M.

Quaeſo abſolvito hinc me extemplo, quando ſatis deluſeris.
Quid fit deinde?

B R O M.

Dum haec aguntur, interea Uxorem tuam
Neque gementem, neque plorantem, noſtr'um quiſquam audivimus,
Ita profecto ſine Dolore peperit.

A M.

Jam iſtuc (236) gaudeo,
Ut ut erga me eſt merita.

B R O M.

Iſtaec mitte, atque haec quae dicam accipe.
Poſtquam peperit, (237) Pueros lavare juſſit nos: occepimus;
Set Puer ille, quem ego lavi, ut magnus eſt, et multum valet,
Neque eum quiſquam colligare quivit Incunabulis. (238)

A M.

Nimia Mira memoras: ſi iſtaec vera ſunt, divinitus
Non metuo quin meae Uxori latae Suppetiae fient.

B R O M.

---

234. *That is* with waſh'd Hands. *Lavations are frequently mentioned by* Greek *and* Roman *Authors as requiſite Parts of Religion.*

235. *This is a ceremonial Part likewiſe of the Religion of the antient* Greeks.

236. Propter *underſtood.*

237. *In the firſt Edition of our Poet, in that of* Gronovius, *and other Exemplars, there is no Stop at* peperit, *but one at* Pueros; *which makes it Nonſenſe. Did* Alcmena, *after ſhe brought forth the Children, bid the Servants*

of the immortal Gods, with her Hands waſh'd, and her Head cover'd: then it immediately thunder'd ſo loud, that at firſt we thought your Houſe was falling down: the whole Houſe ſhin'd as bright as if it was all Gold.

A M.

I intreat you to relieve me immediately, ſince you have perplex'd me enough. What follow'd?

B R O M.

During all this, not one of us hear'd your Wife ſo much as groan, or complain, ſhe was ſo eaſyly deliver'd, even without any Pain.

A M.

That gives me Pleaſure, however ſhe has behav'd to me.

B R O M.

No more of that, but mind what I have to ſay. When ſhe was deliver'd, ſhe order'd us to waſh the Children: we went about it; but the Boy, whom I waſh'd, is ſo big, and ſo ſtrong, that none of us cou'd bind him in his Swathing-cloaths.

A M.

What you relate is wonderful indeed: if this is true, I fear not but that my Wife has had great Aſſiſtance from Heav'n.

Servants waſh themſelves? For that is the Conſtruction with ſuch Pointing: read it with a Comma at peperit, *and the Senſe is good.*

238. *In almoſt all the Editions which I have ſeen it is* in Cunabulis *in two Words: yet I doubt not but it was originally as I give it; for, as* Turnebus *obſerves,* Incunabulæ *are the Swathing-cloaths: ſays* BROMIA, the Boy, whom I waſhed, is ſo big and ſtrong, that none of us could bind him in his Swathing-Cloaths. De l'Oeuvre *has* Incunabulis.

BROM.

Magis jam faxo Mira dices. Poſtquam in Cunas conditu' 'ſt,
Devolant Angues jubati deorſum in Impluvium (239) duo
Maxumi: continuo extollunt ambo Capita.

AM.

Hei mihi!

BROM.

Ne pave: — ſet Angues Oculis omnes circumviſere (240),
Poſtquam Pueros conſpicati, pergunt ad Cunas citi.
Ego Cunas receſſim (241) rurſum vorſum trahere et ducere,
Metuens Pueris, mihi formidans, tantoque Angues acrius
Perſequi. Poſtquam conſpexit Angues ille alter Puer,
Citus e Cunis exſilit, facit recta (242) in Anguis Impetum,
Alterum altera (243) apprehendit eos Manu perniciter.

AM.

Mira memoras: nimis formidoloſum Facinus praedicas:
Nam mihi Horror Membra miſero percipit Dictis tuis.
Quid ſit deinde? Porro loquere.

BROM.

Puer ambos Anguis enecat:
Dum haec aguntur, Voce clara exclamat Uxorem tuam.

AM.

Quis Homo?

BROM.

---

239. Impluvium *is what we call a Sky-light, as appears from a Paſſage which* Gronovius *quotes from* Varro, *who ſays,* ſi relictus erat Locus in Medio ut Lucem caperet deorſum, qua impluebat, Impluvium dictum.

240. Incipiunt, *or ſome ſuch Word is underſtood, as* is

BROM.

I'll make you acknowledge what's more wonderful ſtill. After the Boy was lay'd in the Cradle, two vaſt Serpents with Creſts rowl'd down the Sky-light: they both immediately rear'd up their Heads.

A M.

Alas! alas!

BROM.

Be not afraid: — the Serpents begun to caſt their Eyes on all, and, 'ſpying the Children, haſten'd to the Cradle. I draw'd the Cradle backwards and forwards, fearing for the Children, and for myſelf too, and the Serpents follow'd ſo much the more fiercely. As ſoon as that other Boy ſees the Serpents, he immediately leaps out from his Cradle, runs violently at them, and ſuddenly ſeizes them, in each Hand one.

A M.

You relate Wonders: there's ſomething formidable in what you ſay: your Words convey Horror thro all my Limbs. What happen'd next? Go on in your Story.

BROM.

The Child kill'd both the Serpents: while this was doing, with a loud Voice he call'd on your Wife.

A M.

Who call'd?

BROM.

---

is incipio *afterwards to* trahere *and* ducere, *and* incipiunt *again to* perſequi.

241. Receſſim *is the ſame as* retro. BOXHORN.

242. Via *underſtood.*

243. *He took one Snake in his right Hand and one in his left.*

BROM.

Summus Imperator Div'um atque Hominum *Jupiter*:
Is sedixit cum *Alcumena* clam consuetum Cubilibus, (244)
Eumque Filium suum esse qui illos Anguis vicerit:
Alterum esse tuum dixit Puerum.

AM.

Pol me haut poenitet,
Si (245) licet, boni Dimidium mihi dividere cum *Jove*.
Abi Domum; jube Vasa pura (246) actutum adornari mihi,
Ut *Jovis* supremi multis Hostiis Pacem expetam.

[Exit *Bromia*.

244. Scaliger *prefers* Cubitibus.

245. *The common Reading is* scilicet; *which* Gronovius *keeps in the Text; but he gives* si licet *in the Margin*

SCENA II.

AMPHITRUO.

EGO *Tiresiam* Conjectorem advocabo, et consulam
Quid faciundum censeat: simul hanc Rem, ut facta est, eloquar:
Set quid hoc? Quam valide tonuit! Di obsecro vostram Fidem.

SCENA

BROM.

Jupiter the ſupreme Sov'reign of Gods and Men: he declar'd that he had clandeſtinely poſſeſs'd *Alcmena*, and that the Child who kill'd the Serpents is his: the other, he ſay'd, is your Son.

A M.

By *Pollux*, I do not repent ſharing with *Jupiter*, if I may ſo ſay, in any Good. Go Home; order the ſacred Veſſels (246) to be made ready immediately, that I may conciliate myſelf to *Jove* ſupreme by many Victims. [*Bromia* goes.

Margin from a Manuſcript Copy of Camerarius; *which is the better Reading.*

246. *See Note* 181.

SCENE II.

AMPHITRYON.

I'LL call on the Prophet *Tireſias*, and conſult with him what's proper to be done: I'll tell him the whole Affair as it is: — but what's this? How terribly it thunders! Defend us Heaven.

SCENE

Scena III.

JUPITER et AMPHITRUO.

JUP.

BONO Animo es, adsum Auxilio, *Amphitruo*, tibi et tuis;
Nihil est quod timeas (247); Hariolos et Haruspices
Mitte omnis: quae futura et quae facta eloquar
Multo adeo melius quam illi, quom sim *Juppiter*.
Primum omnium, *Alcumenae* (248) Usuram Corporis
Cepi, et Concubitu gravidam feci Filio: 6
Tu gravidam item fecisti, quom in Exercitum
Profectus: uno Partu duos peperit simul;
Eorum alter, nostro qui est conceptus (249) Semine,
Suis Factis se (250) inmortali afficiet Gloria. 10

Tu

247. *The Sense of this Passage is spoiled by the injudicious Pointing of* Gronovius *and most Editors:* Gronovius *gives it thus,*

Nihil est quod timeas Hariolos, Haruspices
Mitte omnis;

and et *is in none which I have seen: the Reading and Pointing which I here give will appear preferable, I believe, on Examination.* Jupiter *does not say,* you need not fear any Conjurers or Fortune-tellers, *but,* you need not be afraid of any Thing; don't consult any Conjurers or Fortune-tellers.

248. *The Expression* I have made use of *is the nearest which I could think of to answer to* Usuram coepi.

249. *The common Reading is* susceptus. Conceptus *has*

SCENE III.

JUPITER and *AMPHITRYON.*

JUP.

BE comforted, *Amphitryon*, I am come to the Aſſiſtance of you and your Family; you have Nothing to fear; neglect all Auſpices and Soothſayers: of what's to come and what is paſs'd I'll inform you much better than they, as I am *Jove* himſelf. Firſt of all, I have made Uſe (248) of *Alcmena*'s Perſon, and ſhe became pregnant by me with a Son: you likewiſe left her pregnant, when you went to the Army: ſhe has at one Birth brought forth two Boys; one of which, he that is ſprung from me, ſhall gain immortal Glory by his Deeds. Do you receive *Alcmena* into former

---

has the Authority of an old Manuſcript quoted by Gronovius *from* Diſſaldæus; *and I doubt not but it is the right Reading: the Reaſon given by the learned Critic will be properer here in his own Words than in* Engliſh: *ſays he* CONCEPTIO proprie Seminis, primus Uteri Actus in Generatione. SUSCEPTIO, in Lucem editi Pueri, Opus Parentum, qui Natos Manibus ſuſcipiunt, atque e Terra tollunt, ut oſtendant velle ſe eos ali atque educari. *The Reaſon is good for* conceptus; *but the Expreſſion is itſelf groſs in our Poet.*

250. Te *is in all the Copys which I have ſeen: but ſurely it could never come from* Plautus: *how could the Actions of* Hercules *bring immortal Glory on* Amphitryon? Jupiter *is foretelling the Greatneſs of* Hercules *himſelf:* ſe *therefore muſt be the Word.*

Tu cum *Alcumena* Uxore antiquam in Gratiam
Redi: haut promeruit quamobrem Vitio vorteres (251):
Mea Vi ſubacta eſt facere. Ego in Coelum migro.
[Exit *Juppiter*.

251. Illam *underſtood.*

Scena IV.

AMPHITRUO.

FAciam ita ut jubes; et te oro Promiſſa ut ſerves tua.
Ibo ad Uxorem intro; miſſum faciam (252) *Tireſiam* Senem.
Nunc, Spectatores, *Jovis* ſummi Cauſa clare plaudite.

252. Gronovius *and other Editors give* facio: faciam *is in the firſt Edition, and I believe the true Reading:* I will

FINIS.

former Favour: ſhe has by no Means deſerv'd to be repudiated: ſhe was ſubjected by my Power to act. I now return to Heaven. [*Jupiter* goes.

SCENE IV.

AMPHITRYON.

YOUR Commands ſhall be obey'd; and I beg the Performance of your Promiſes. I will go in to my Wife; and I'll lay all Thoughts of old *Tireſias* aſide.—— Now, Gentlemen, for the Sake of *Jove* ſupreme, give us your loud Applauſe.

I will go in, *ſays he*, to my Wife; *and I'll lay all Thoughts of* Tireſias *aſide.*

The END.

ERRORS of the PRESS.

In the Prologue, *V.* 146, *for* Familiarum *read* Familiarium. *Act* 1, *Sc.* 1, *V.* 303, *for* atque *read* atque. *Act* 2, *Sc.* 2, *v.* 24, *for* parte *read* parta.